

Focus & Frame:  
Beginner Photographer Online Course

# Definitions

**Aperture:** the variable opening of the shutter controlling the amount of light allowed to reach the camera's sensor.

**Bokeh:** a fancy word for the blurry out of focus background in a photo.

**Composition:** all the things you see in your photo - the subject, the background, the positioning, the angles. What you see, how and where it is placed in the scene.

**Crop Sensor:** As it sounds the sensor is smaller than the Full Frame sensor and crops out the edges of the frame. They are generally 22 x 15mm.

**DoF:** "Depth of Field" is the amount of the photo that is in focus, with the remainder deliberately blurred or bokeh.

**Dynamic Range:** The range of light-to-dark in your photo (max to min measureable light). Higher quality cameras have a higher Dynamic Range.

**Exposure:** The amount of light your camera's sensor captures while the shutter is open. Exposure is balanced by the Exposure Triangle.

**Exposure Triangle:** is the delicate art of balancing the ratios between ISO, Aperture and shutter speed.

**Full Frame:** Refers to the size of the sensor in your camera. A full frame means the sensor is the same size as old fashioned 35mm film (36 x 24mm).

**f-Stop:** is the number that represents the size of the aperture. The smaller the number the bigger the opening! (We'll explain more about this confusing concept later.

**Histogram:** The little graph thingy that pops up on your camera or editing software. This tells you the balance of your exposure of your photo.

**ISO:** this is the measurement of how sensitive your camera's sensor is to light. High end cameras handle ISO better than other cameras. Same as ASA (American Standards Association) on film cameras.



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**JPG / JPEG:** the default format that photos are stored in after editing (the standard since 1991).

**Megapixels:** the resolution or number of dots (pixels) that make up your digital image. It is calculated by multiplying the number of *pixels wide* x *pixels high*.

**Noise:** What you can see when you use a high ISO, caused by the sensor being made too sensitive and resulting in electrical interference.

**Photography:** is derived from two Greek words: *photo* meaning light and *graph* meaning to draw, so essentially photography is "drawing with light". If you can understand this definition early you will grab the basic concept of photography.

**Pixels:** the little dots that make up your photo. They are smallest elements of an image that can be individually processed.

**RAW:** As it sounds this is an unedited image, straight from the camera. It holds the highest amount of data for editing. RAW data can't be represented as an image!

**Sensor:** this is the little bit of electronic gear that catches the light and turns it into electronic pulses to produce your digital photo. The sensor is the modern day version of cellulose film.

**Shutter:** A "curtain" like device that sits in front of the camera's sensor that opens and closes to allow light to hit the sensor via the lens.

**Shutter Speed:** The speed at which your shutter opens and closes.

**SOOC:** Straight-out-of-Camera - the image your camera produces without you conducting any post editing.

**White Balance:** How your camera's sensor handles the whites in your photo. Different light sources give different hues. Adjusting the white balance returns the photo to close to "as seen".

