

TAKING GOOD PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Find your framing

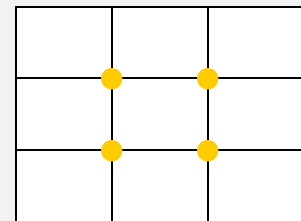
Find your focal point but don't shy away from including other elements in the photograph if they are part of your story. Additionally, if you frame your focal point by using an existing element, like a window, then the eye will naturally follow that framing device to your primary focal point.

2. Get focused

If your main subject isn't in the middle of the photograph, use the focus lock feature on your camera or phone to set the focus on your subject.

3. Rule of thirds

This traditional "rule" imagines that you dissect the frame horizontally and vertically into thirds. This renders nine rectangles and yields four points where the lines intersect. Placing your primary topics at any one of these four points - that all revolve around the center square - is believed to yield a balanced and engaging photograph.



Dissect the frame horizontally and vertically into thirds.

4. Move yourself around your subject

Try shooting your subject from different angles to find the best perspective and to frame out anything distracting in the background. Different perspectives increase your visual vocabulary. Don't be afraid to lay on the ground. Shooting up at subjects often gives them power

5. Communicate scale

Try including visual references (people, tools, coins, etc.) if you want to communicate scale.



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6. See beauty in the details

Close-ups of faces, colors, textures, and patterns give added dimension and details to your photographs.

7. Pay attention to lighting

The light source (from the sun or other lights) should be directed on your subject. The best times to shoot photographs are early morning or late afternoon when the sun is low in the sky. Light sources create shadows, which can make your photographs more interesting. Use light practically and creatively.

8. Pay attention to palette

You are creating a visual story. How the colors interact with each other is important. Consider looking for two or three colors that will be featured across many of the images in your story. This can increase focus and intensify the dialogue that the photographs have with each other.

9. Shoot more than you think you need

Capturing great photographs is a process of trial and error. Experiment with different angles and framing, evaluating what works and what doesn't to hone your approach as you go.

10. Look for layers

Consider what is in the foreground, middle, and background of your frame. What is the focal point and where does it fit? Some images should be very simple, while others will place your subject in a rich surrounding.

