

“Years ago, sitting atop a mound of lava on the island of Baltra in the Galapagos, a friend of mine turned to another friend and announced, ‘I came to find myself.’ ‘That’s funny,’ replied the other friend, ‘because I came here to lose myself.’ Same trip, same island, same rock, two different journeys. That’s the way it is with journeys — they’re all different, and we go on them for all kinds of reasons. Some might be short ... and others might be meant to last forever. Some might be about rest and relaxation and others about adventure, exploration, and even danger. Some journeys are meant to be sacred, and others... decidedly not sacred. Some journeys might be carefully planned for years, and others spontaneous, conjured up in a moment.... But a journey, in any form, is an opportunity to see the world anew. They uproot us from the routines of our lives, both the good and not-so-good parts of them, and allow us to step outside of our work-day patterns and into something different. A journey is a time to see our lives in context with those of other people, and to have our assumptions about how the world works challenged. They can restoke our curiosity about the world, and about our lives. They can renew our dreams.”

- H. Emerson Blake

ANSEL ADAMS ZONE SYSTEM EXPLAINED

<http://www.outdoorphotographer.com/how-to/shooting/the-digital-zone-system.html#.VNLVc2TF-LI>

<http://photography.tutsplus.com/tutorials/understanding-using-ansel-adams-zone-system--photo-5607>

<http://www.normankoren.com/zonesystem.html>

The essence of the Zone System is reflectivity of light. We know that a gray card reflects 18% of the light hitting it. Once I learned that different colors reflect light differently, it started to make sense to me. Colors like fire engine red, green grass and Home Depot orange all reflect the same amount of light as a gray card at 18%. Those colors are in Zone 5. Lighter colors, pastels, or whites, will reflect more light so they are in Zones VI and VII. Darker colors and blacks reflect less light so are in Zones III and IV.

SUNNY 16....on sunny days only

The sunny 16 rule (also known as the sunny f/16 rule) is a method of estimating correct daylight exposures without a light meter.

The basic rule is, "On a sunny day set aperture to f/16 and shutter speed to the [reciprocal of the] ISO setting for a subject in direct sunlight."

For example:

On a sunny day and with ISO 100 setting in the camera, set the aperture to f/16 and the shutter speed to the reciprocal to the ISO, which would be 1/100.....or 1/125 (in some cameras)

On a sunny day with ISO 200 setting and aperture at f/16, set shutter speed to 1/200.....or 1/250 in some cameras

On a sunny day with ISO 400 setting and aperture at f/16, set shutter speed to 1/400.... or 1/500 in some cameras

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunny_16_rule

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/tips-solutions/sunny-16-rule>

MOONY 8.....only for moon shooting

<https://tysonrobichaudphotography.wordpress.com/2012/02/23/sunny-16-and-the-moony-8-shootin-the-moon/>

26 REASONS YOUR SHOTS MAY NOT BE SHARP ENOUGH

1. **Sensor size.** A bigger sensor gives you sharper images. A medium format camera has a huge sensor and takes fantastically sharp images.
2. **# of pixels**
3. **Processor.** The newer the processor, the less noise. The buffer is bigger, which is good for sports.
4. **ISO....use the lowest ISO possible for your shot**
5. **Tripod....the heavier the better, and it's best not to extend the post on the tripod**
6. **Cable release....essential tool for serious photogs**
7. **Mirror lock, self-timer, LIVE VIEW....ways to shoot without the motion of depressing the shutter**
8. **Mirrorless cameras... focus peaking is great**
9. **Manual focus can be sharper than auto focus. Use live view whenever possible, especially for landscapes.**
10. **Rear-button focus. Most pros use this.**
11. **Focus limiter....with long and macro lenses, the focus limiter allows the lens to focus faster.**
12. **Shutter speed**

13. Image stabilization. Always turn it off when using a tripod. However, with some sensors you do not need to turn it off, so read your manual
14. The lens itself....special glass.
15. Primes are usually sharper than zooms
16. Middle f stops are sharpest (not f16). So if you don't need the DOF, then shoot at f5.6 or f8.
17. Weather.....humid days can contribute
18. Always use a lens hood, as the extraneous light can often make the image appear duller.
19. Filters on your lens. Don't use it unless you need it to protect the lens where you're shooting, or unless you're using a polarizer.
20. DOF
21. Dust on the lens
22. Size of the print
23. If image is NOT perfectly sharp, use a **matte paper**. Artsy paper will give it more of a look of a fine print.
24. Inadequacies in the lens
25. **Hyperfocal distance**..... subject distance, focal length & aperture
<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/hyperfocal-distance.htm>
<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-find-and-use-hyperfocal-distance-for-sharp-backgrounds/>
26. **Focus Stacking**.....taking multiple exposures focusing on different areas, then blending them together.

Hyperfocal Distance Explained

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/hyperfocal-distance.htm#calculator>

<http://digital-photography-school.com/how-to-find-and-use-hyperfocal-distance-for-sharp-backgrounds/>
HAS AN EXCELLENT HYPERFOCAL CHART FOR CALCULATING

Rear-Button or Back-Button Focus

Why would anyone want to remove AF from the shutter button?

http://www.learn.usa.canon.com/resources/articles/2011/backbutton_af_article.shtml?categoryId=121

10 killer photography tips the pros won't tell you

http://www.learn.usa.canon.com/resources/articles/2011/backbutton_af_article.shtml?categoryId=121

Live View (USE IT!)

Always use it for landscapes or stationary items. You must use manual focus and you must be on a tripod. But the advantage is that you see in your LCD screen what you're shooting, and then you can use your zoom tool to zoom in up to 10 times for precise focusing.

SHOOTING IN RAW & JPEG & WHY YOU NEED TO CONVERT TO USING ONLY RAW

<http://laurashoe.com/2012/09/24/shooting-in-raw-jpeg-mode-lightroom/>

Aside from the photographic benefits, this has greatly simplified my workflow. This article by Laura Shoe explains why it's important.

LEARNING SITES

<http://laurashoe.com/> Sign up for her newsletter and join her Facebook Page for excellent info and free classes. System update info.

<http://www.lynda.com/> Julianne Kost and Chris Orwig
Free webinars on [lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com/) and can try samples of classes for free
Many different computer-related topics, including photography.

<http://photo.net/> I belong to this. Free and paid memberships.

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/> Very comprehensive.

<http://phlearn.com/> Free Geared toward editing, not photo skills

<http://tv.adobe.com/> Free

<http://digital-photography-school.com/> Gives assignments
LIKE FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFO and free tips

<http://kelbyone.com/courses/photography/> FEE, but some free
Beautiful videos. Top notch content. You can buy an annual subscription and watch as much as you want (watch for holiday sales - they often take \$50 off the price). I think you can also rent them.
Kelby's blog (<http://scottkelby.com/>) and LightroomKillerTips website (<http://lightroomkillertips.com/>) are also great resources, as well as his weekly webTV show, The Grid (<http://kelbytv.com/thegrid/>).
(<http://lightroomkillertips.com/>)

- See more at: <http://www.yummymummyclub.ca/blogs/melissa-gaston-find-the-light/20150202/photography-lessons-online-great-learning-sites?s=sd#sthash.2KM21laD.dpuf>

<https://www.creativelive.com/> FACEBOOK PAGE

The concept at CreativeLive.com is brilliant: unbelievable courses that are FREE if you watch them live. Missed it? You can always buy the course and watch at your leisure. Prices vary, depending on the length of the course. Check out their calendar so that you don't miss a live broadcast of a topic you're interested in!

LEARNING SITES, CONTINUED

PHOTOVENTURE SITES

<http://www.photoventure.com/2013/06/20/55-reasons-photos-arent-working/>

<http://www.photoventure.com/2014/07/28/13-camera-settings-every-new-photographer-should-know/>

<http://www.photoventure.com/2014/02/24/6-camera-settings-photographers-always-get-wrong-and-how-to-get-it-right/>

<http://www.photoventure.com/2013/04/19/10-camera-settings-you-dont-use-and-which-you-probably-should/>

<http://www.photoventure.com/2013/07/23/photography-tips-pros-wont-tell-you/> (BACK BUTTON FOCUSING)

<http://tutsplus.com/> over 19,000 free tutorials

The Actual Camera Manufacturers. Most camera manufacturers now include a learning section on their website. Check out Canon's Digital Learning Center and Nikon's Learn & Explore. All the content here is free!

<http://www.learn.usa.canon.com/>

<http://www.nikonusa.com/en/Learn-And-Explore/index.page>

<http://www.clickinmoms.com/cmu/>

Check out the ClickinMoms University for a wide variety of courses you can take on a full participation or audit basis. In addition, they also offer some self-paced courses to do at your leisure. They have great content offered, but the pricing can be on the higher side. The interactive courses are forum-based, and some involve video, while others are just handouts.

LEARNING SITES, CONT.

DIGITAL CAMERA WORLD

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2014/03/29/6-ways-professional-photographers-use-their-cameras/> **BACK**
BUTTON FOCUSING

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2014/02/07/77-photography-techniques-tips-and-tricks-for-taking-pictures-of-anything/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2012/05/04/99-common-photography-problems-and-how-to-solve-them/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2014/04/19/7-daily-exercises-that-will-make-you-a-better-photographer/2/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2013/09/30/photography-talk-32-things-photographers-say-and-what-they-really-mean/>
FUNNY

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2015/01/06/52-photography-projects-a-photo-idea-try-every-week-2015/>

PHOTO VENTURE CLUB WEBSITE:

<http://photoventure.org/>

IF YOU 'LIKE' THE PHOTO VENTURE FACEBOOK PAGE, YOU'LL FIND POSTS FROM MANY MEMBERS WHO ARE QUITE GENEROUS WITH SHARING THEIR NEW TECHNIQUES OR SPECIFICS ON LIGHTING, ETC. ALSO MANY OF THE SPEAKERS ARE NOW POSTING ALL OF THE PRESENTATIONS ONLINE.

TRICKS & SPECIAL EFFECTS

<http://photographytricks.com/>

FACEBOOK PAGE

<http://www.yummymummyclub.ca/blogs/angella-dykstra-the-wild-west/20131202/how-to-make-custom-bokeh-shapes>

http://www.diyphotography.net/diy_create_your_own_bokeh/

MIRRORLESS CAMERAS

<http://digital-photography-school.com/mirrorless-cameras-stay/>

MORE PHOTO.NET SITES

photo.net January Monthly Project

<http://photo.net/advancing-photography-project/depth-of-field/>

<http://photo.net/learn/digital-darkroom/intro-manual-photography-video/>

<http://photo.net/learn/digital-darkroom/lightroom-album-2/>

BOOKS

I highly recommend the 'MISSING MANUAL' SERIES OF BOOKS. They advertise it as 'the book that should have been in the box'. The ones I've used have been excellent. Here is the complete listing.

<http://www.oreilly.com/missingmanuals/library.html>

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

The only plug-ins RMSP recommends buying above and beyond LR5 and PS6 CC are the following:

Silver Efex Pro for B&W

<http://digital-photography-school.com/8-reasons-to-use-silver-efex-pro-2-for-your-black-and-white-conversions/>

Photomatix Pro for HDR

perhaps **Portrait Professional** for Portraits

Carbon Copy Cloner for backing up to hard drive

WEDDING SITES RECOMMENDED BY SARAH CHAPUT

<http://www.victoriacarlsonphotography.com/blog/>

<http://www.gideonphoto.com/blog/>

<http://www.benjaisch.com/blog/>

<http://www.paperantler.com/blog/>

<http://andrialindquist.com/blog/>

<http://aria.photography/blog/>

<http://blushbyb.com/blog/>

<http://josevillablog.com>

<http://blog.shodalove.com>

<http://featherandstone.com.au>

<http://www.cliffmarck.com/featured-collections/>

<http://firmanchor.com>

<http://www.logancoleblog.com>

FINDING INSPIRATION

Gabe Biderman from B&H Photo

<http://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/photography/features/10-tips-creativity-2015>

Doug Johnson's Blog

<https://www.rmisp.com/blog/2014/12/24/freshen-photography/>

Flicker 115 Pictures in 2015

<https://www.flickr.com/groups/2636120@N24/discuss/72157646733999768/>

<http://freedocumentaries.org/>

<http://www.digitalcameraworld.com/2015/01/06/52-photography-projects-a-photo-idea-try-every-week-2015/>

PINTEREST.com

https://www.pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=photography&term_meta%5B%5D=photography%7Ctyped

<https://www.facebook.com/Art.Cinema.Photography/photos/a.1677804189112010.1073741830.1447493435476421/1760560010836427/?type=1&fref=fb&pnref=story>

<http://www.rmisp.com/blog/2015/01/28/getting-unstuck-photography-takes-commitment/> by MARCY JAMES, getting unstuck in your photography

John Cleese on the 5 Factors to Make Your Life More Creative

<http://genius.com/John-cleese-lecture-on-creativity-annotated>

Creativity is NOT a talent. It is simply a way of operating. Creativity is not related to IQ. The most creative people had acquired a vicinity and allowed space for their creativity to be revealed. We all possess it.

STUCK? GET UNSTUCK WITH THESE IDEAS.

COMMON PHOTOGRAPHY THEMES

reflections

children

high tech

skyline

focusing on one color

flowers

remembering summer

abandoned

in the refrigerator

doors / windows

poverty

joy, sorrow or other emotions

urban decay

water

urban macro

family

seasons

wild outdoors

fog and mist / weather

at home

planes / trains / automobiles

close ups of natural forms

dark figures at night

elders

steel and glass

paths

tunnels

street portraits

dramatic skies

graffiti

faceless portraits

love

signs

specific animal body parts

wind

cooking

humor

neon

underwater

trees and wood

in the workplace

music

EMOTIONS

peace and tranquility

happiness

sadness

love

hate

gratitude

pride

solitude

sorrow

death and rebirth

fear and unease

ponderous

excitement

hope

awe or wonderment

ABSTRACT CONCEPTUAL IDEAS

inner

don't forget

the only exception

truth

time on fire

my own dream of childhood

little secrets

hands remember

feathers

one year ago

welcome to my wonderland

be strong

just another love song

free your thoughts

where imagination becomes reality

edge of the world

come here

pray

sweet dreams

relations

captured hearts

screaming in silence

sustainable development

cloud maker

industry and nature

ABSTRACT FORMAL DESIGN IDEAS

think simplistically....go back to design

shape

pattern

texture

point

leading lines

color

black and white

find a commonality between subjects. provide a sensory experience for your viewer. sound, taste, smell, touch. feel

ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES

beauty of the rural environment

sustainability

nature of growing

birth of a new life

future environment

nostalgic forest

nature in the urban jungle

the energy of nature

human impact on nature

a world with less pollution

nature portraits

larger than life

man made landscapes

COMING UP WITH IDEAS

- look for existing visual / topic trends in your photo library
- what do you read, listen to, watch
- your values, beliefs, your history
- consider imitating other photographers
- the world around you
- your kitchen
- your friends and their children
- play a game to see how many ideas you can come up with on your own

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXERCISES

(compiled by Doug Johnson)

light as subject
space between objects
clothes hanging on a hook
hands
automobile as work of art
timelessness
round
blue and red or warm and cool
roughed up
proportion of space in thirds
dominance
stillness
two in a pair
thru the trees
opposites
older
off balance
color it
the wind

evidence of man
expression of life or death
doors and / or windows
elevate common object to shrine
a fork
shadow as a subject
tissue paper
tired
a long way
about to drop
flower face
sailing in the wind
bookends
outcast
corner stop
directional
elephant and ant view
big round
fuzzy

Teacher and mentor Marcy James from the Rocky Mountain School of Photography gave her students the following points to remember as they spread their wings and graduated from the Summer Intensive Career Training program. Good advice for all photographers!

- 1. Light is your subject**
- 2. Every photo you make is a self portrait**
- 3. Take your camera with you EVERYWHERE**
- 4. Gain access**
- 5. Develop a room of one's own**
- 6. Network**
- 7. Dream big!!!**
- 8. Look for the story**

MARCY JAMES“PHOTOGRAPHERS TO FOLLOW”

George Dewolfe

<http://www.georgedewolfe.com/>

Willam Albert Allard

<http://www.williamalbertallard.com/>

John Paul Caponigro

<http://www.johnpaulcaponigro.com/>

Freeman Patterson

<http://www.freemanpatterson.com/>

Andre Gallant

<http://www.andregallant.com/>

Eddie Soloway

<http://www.eddiesoloway.com/>

John Shaw

<http://www.johnshawphoto.com/>

Maggie Taylor

<http://maggietaylor.com/>

John W Snell

<http://www.johnsnellphoto.com/>

Jennifer Fraser

<http://jenniferfraser.zenfolio.com/>

Tim Cooper

<http://timcooper.photoshelter.com/>

Dea Vogel

<http://deavogel.zenfolio.com/>

Elizabeth Stone

<http://www.elizabethstone.com/>

Kathy Eyster

<http://www.kathyeyster.com/>

Julieanne Kost

w.jkost.com