

# How to Compose a Perfect Photograph

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How to compose a perfect photograph.

Today's digital cameras have made the joy of photography available to more people. Whether your goal is to share photographs online with friends and [family](#) or to create printed works of [art](#) for display, it is important that your photograph not only be technically well-executed but that your image be aesthetically composed as well.

## Instructions

Difficulty: Moderately Easy

- 1 Choose an interesting subject --- someone or something that will make for a compelling photograph. A photograph of an uninteresting subject will be, quite simply, an uninteresting photograph.
- 2 Fill the frame of the photograph with the subject of interest. A photograph that contains lots of empty space or that is occupied with objects that are not part of the subject of interest will distract your viewer's attention from the subject of your picture. Be sure to make your main subject the most prominent feature in the image.
- 3 Frame the image in your camera's viewfinder or LCD screen so that your viewer's eye will be directed to the main subject of your photograph by a leading line or lines. A leading line may be an object such as a road or pathway, a fence, a stream or a shadow. Diagonal leading lines are strong elements, as are curved and S-shaped leading lines.
- 4 Place the main subject on one of the imaginary lines or points of intersection of lines that divide your photograph into vertical and horizontal thirds (following the rule of thirds). An off-center subject placement adds a dynamic tension to your photograph.
- 5 Achieve separation of your main subject from the background by using selective focus. What this means is that you should select a camera aperture and shutter speed that will blur the background yet keep your main subject in sharp focus.

## References

[The Luminous Landscape; "Photographic Composition: Introduction"; John Paul Caponigro; June 2009](#)

[Carolyn Lim: Photographic Composition for Beginners](#)

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