

Beginner's Guide

5 Tips to Improve Your Photos Right Now!

DENICE WOYSKI

photography

I created this guide because I see a lot of people making the same types of mistakes and then express dissatisfaction that their photo didn't turn out. It doesn't matter if your primary camera is a phone, film or digital camera, the following tips will help you improve your images dramatically!

These tips don't require any technical skill, but instead focus on the creative things you can control before you click the shutter while letting your camera handle the technical side of things.

Enjoy!

1. KEEP THE SUN AT YOUR BACK

It takes skill and some serious know-how to photograph into the sun and NOT get a silhouette. If you DON'T want silhouettes, DON'T shoot into the sun.



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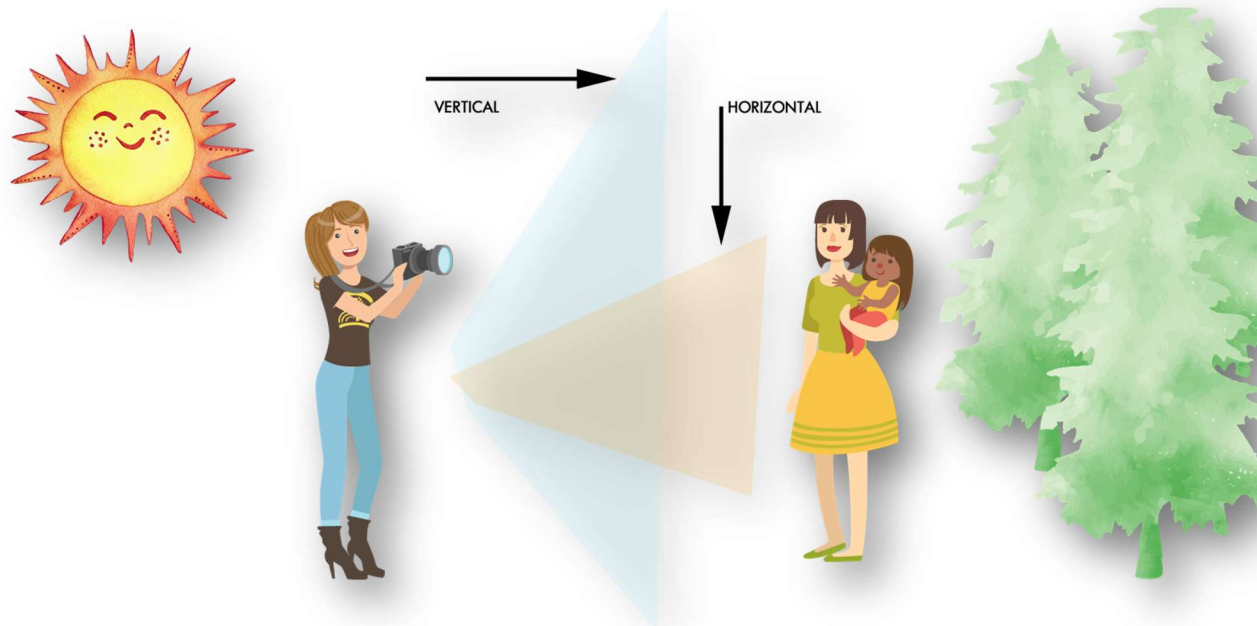
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2. SHOOT VERTICALLY!

For vertical subjects, turn your camera to the vertical orientation. Shooting vertical subjects in a vertical orientation allows you to get closer or zoom in on your subject without cutting off feet, tops of heads or tree tops. If you're not sure – do both!



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3. BACKGROUNDS

Watch your background! Sneaky things like road signs and trash cans are a big distraction in an otherwise great photo of your friends.



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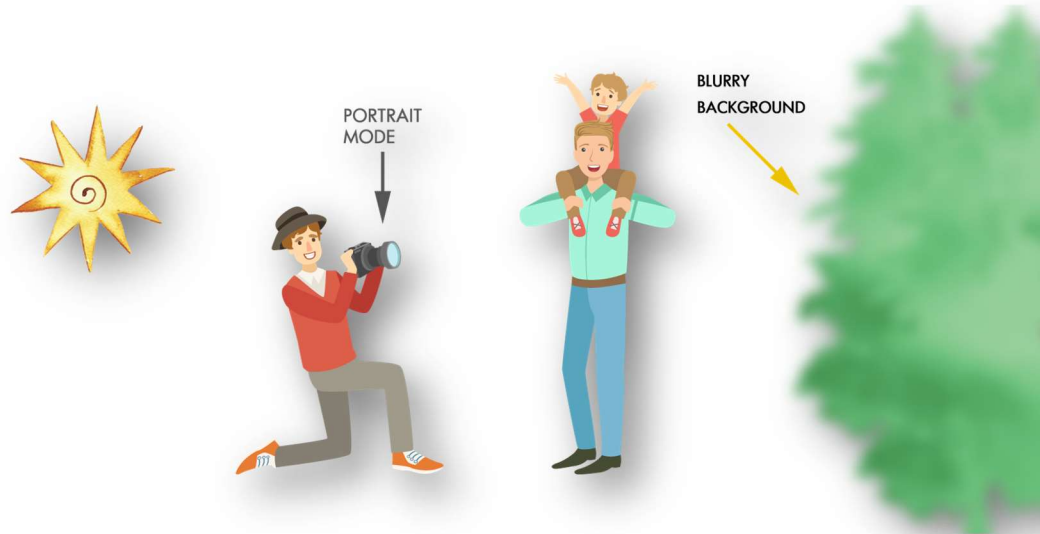
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4. PORTRAIT MODE

If your phone/camera has a portrait mode, use it! Portrait mode blurs the background and can be used on subjects other than people. Portrait mode makes your subject stand out so your subject is the focus of the photo. Portrait mode is perfect for people and other subjects you want to separate from the background. Get close to your subject(s) until they fill most of the frame – leave a little room on the top and sides.

What does portrait mode look like? On a phone, it is most likely the word PORTRAIT. On a camera, it will be an icon, typically of a person in side view and you might even have a night portrait mode (icon of a person with a star in the sky). These modes are really useful because they set the camera to the appropriate settings (including flash for night portraits) and you get the best possible portraits.



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5. BRIGHT LIGHT OR SHADE – NOT BOTH

Keep your subjects in full sun or full shade, but not both. Your camera can't expose for both situations at the same time, so, as in the example, half the people are bright (or overexposed) and the other half are dark (or underexposed). When photographing people especially, put them in the same light. And avoid dappled sunlight, typically found under trees. Optimally, photographing your subjects in full shade or sunlight from a sun that is low in the sky is best.

