Tips for shooting with your digital camera
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Before you shoot:

1. Choose the Resolution and Image Quality Settings for your camera
   a. Choose **RAW** if your camera has that option. If there is no RAW option, select **JPG High**
   b. Choose the highest resolution available for your camera
      (On our Olympus Cameras, "SHQ" means High-Quality JPG and 3072x2304 means 7MP)
2. Choose the right Drive Setting
   a. For **single** pictures, select the ☐ drive option. (Recommended for most situations)
   b. To shoot **multiple** rapid sequences of pictures, select the ▤ drive option.
3. Choose the Light Metering Mode
   a. Spot Metering ▣ reads light hitting the center of the frame.
   b. Average Metering ▣ reads light hitting all parts of the frame. (Recommended)
4. Set the method of Focus
   a. Choose **Auto** instead of **Manual** focus unless your camera is a D-SLR and has a focusing ring.
   b. Choose the method of Auto focus:
      AVERAGE focus averages all objects in the frame and chooses the focus for you.
      SPOT focus on the object in the center of the frame, allowing you more control. (Recommended on most cameras)
   c. Some cameras come with "**focus-points**" that can be used to sharpen parts of the frame, such as only the left or top. (Recommended if your camera has it.)

Observe the lighting conditions:

1. Set the White Balance according to the "color" of your light.
   a. For rapidly changing lighting conditions, use the Automatic WB feature.
      AUTO- the easiest option, but can sometimes produce unpredictable colors
   b. When shooting in one kind of light, use a WB preset. (Recommended for most situations and/or for shooting in one specific kind of light, but be sure to change the setting as the light changes)
      ☀ **Sunny**- For direct sunlight hitting your subject.
      ☁ **Cloudy**- Overcast light outdoors or indirect sunlight coming through windows indoors.
      ☀ **Tungsten**- Light from standard light-bulbs indoor at night. Used for warm street-lamps.
      ▥ **Fluorescent**- Light from fluorescent tubes, or compact fluorescent bulbs.
   c. For mixed lighting conditions or to get really clean colors, use the Custom WB option.
      (Camera manufacturers vary the procedure for measuring a custom white-balance. See the manual for your make/model of camera for the correct procedure)
      ◺ **Custom**- To measure, fill the frame with a white object reflecting light into the camera.
2. Set the ISO to adjust the sensitivity of your camera's sensor to incoming light.
   A typical range of ISO's: **50**, **100**, **200**, **400**, **800**, **1600**, etc.
   a. Using **AUTO** ISO is not recommended for most situations since the camera will choose the ISO, sometimes producing noisy images.
   b. In low light, or for fast-moving subjects, use high sensitivity ISO's such as **400**, and above.
      (This may produce images with noise as a trade-off for speed)
   c. In strong light, or for slow-moving subjects, use low sensitivity ISO's such as **50**, **100**, & **200**.
      (Recommended since they produces smoother images. If available light is not strong you might try using flash or a tripod)

Observe your subject, and shoot:

1. Set the Macro option for shooting very small or close-up subjects.
   a. 🌷 – your camera will adjust itself for close-up focusing
   b. Be sure to turn the Macro option off if you don't need it.

2. The main dial on your camera will allow you to make choices that affect the exposure of your shots. These settings can greatly affect the aesthetic quality of your image.

   a. **AUTO** or ▢ - Full Auto, point-and-shoot mode. Image quality may suffer.
   b. **P** – Program will auto expose, but allow for manual control of WB, ISO, Focusing, etc. (Recommended for most situations)
   c. **A** – Aperture priority will allow you to select the Aperture. The camera will choose the correct shutter speed to compensate. Use this option if you want to control how much or how little depth of field your picture will yield.
   d. **S** – Shutter prority will allow you to select the Shutter-Speed. The camera will choose the correct aperture to compensate. Use this option if you want to control how long the shutter will be open on the camera.
   e. **M** – This option allows you to control the Aperture and Shutter-Speed independently of one another. You can intentionally under-expose or over-expose if you are in a tough lighting condition and are not getting good results from any of the auto settings.
   f. **Scene Modes** – Basically the same as "Program" mode, except that the camera will have a bias toward an auto-exposure based on the chosen scene. These are not recommended since they offer no specific control over the Aperture or Shutter-Speed.
      🏔 Landscape – Biased toward more depth of field
      🧍 Portrait – Biased toward center weighted exposures and less depth of field
      🌃 Night – Biased toward using flash and longer shutter speeds
      🏃 Sports – Biased toward more stopping power

3. When there's not enough available light to make a good exposure, try using flash or a tripod.
   a. Press the **flash button** ⚡ to enable the onboard flash on your camera. You should also see the same icon somewhere on your digital readout. (On some of our Olympus cameras you must also manually flip-up the flash on the camera body)
   b. To **disable the flash**, press the flash button until your digital readout shows a ⚡ icon.
   c. If you are not using the flash, and your shutter speed is slower than 1/60th of a second, you should use a tripod or prop the camera on something still. When shooting, use the **self-timer** function ⏱ so that you don't move the camera as the exposure is being made.

4. Frame your subject by moving the camera closer/further away, or change the focal length (zoom in/out).
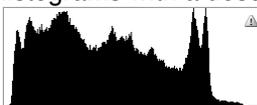
After you've shot:

1. After shooting a few pictures, it's a good idea to review them to check the exposure, sharpness, etc.
   a. Put your camera into Playback mode ▶ , then choose an image to review.
   b. While in playback, press the **DISP** button (a.k.a. ▢ or **INFO**) until you see the histogram for that image.
   c. If the **histogram** doesn't look right, then adjust your exposure and shoot again.
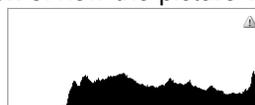   Here are some standard histograms with a description of how the picture would look:

Too Dark: Under-exposed – Open the aperture or longer shutter speed to let in more light.	Just Right: When a full range of tones is captured, you'll see the "start" and "end" of the info.	Too Light: Over-exposed – Close the aperture or faster shutter speed to reduce incoming light.