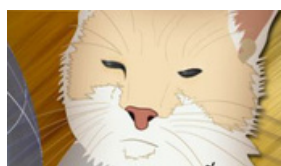




CAMERA TERMS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW YET

But will soon!





WELCOME

Let me introduce you to some of the words that are shorthand for long and complex concepts and technical terms in the world of photography!

When I began to use my own camera, I had no idea where to look for explanations to the words that experienced users took for granted, and I don't want you to feel intimidated by them either.

For you to set off your journey on the right foot (or paw) I have gathered some of the most helpful tech. terms with short explanations so they don't look quite so intimidating.

I have also included links to some of one or two of my favourite photography sites who provide more detail for a few terms it is helpful to understand in a bit more detail.

Knowing about Modes, ISO and your Shutter makes a big difference to check them out.

Marjorie

Glossary of Camera and Photography Terms



Aperture

Aperture changes how wide the lens' opening is. Inside the camera, a set of circular blades widens and narrows as the photographer adjusts the aperture.

The human eye adjusts to bright light by controlling the size of the pupil. Aperture follows a similar idea in that the opening adjusts to different light.



Bokeh

Bokeh: bokeh (/ˈboʊkə/BOH-kə or /ˈboʊkeɪ/BOH-kay) is the quality of out-of-focus or “blurry” parts of the image rendered by a camera lens.



Depth of Field

DOF for short, refers to how much of an image is in focus, specifically the distance between the nearest and farthest in-focus parts of an image – [SLR Lounge](#)



Derp

Cat speak for a cute or dumb face pulled by your model that makes people go ‘Awwww’. Also used as a substitute for speech regarded as meaningless, or to comment on a foolish or stupid action when speaking about humans.



Exposure Compensation (EC)

This is a great explanation from [Nikon](#). A bit technical but try it and see the impact the slight adjustments can make.

EC is used to alter the exposure from a value selected by the camera, making photographs brighter or darker. In Nikon modes P, S, and A, (Canon modes are P, Av and Tv) the camera automatically adjusts settings for optimal exposure, but this may not always produce the exposure the photographer intended.



Glossary of Camera and Photography Terms 2



Image File Formats

Keeping this non techy. An image file may store data in an uncompressed format or a compressed format. Image files you will use are composed of digital data that can be described as **lossless** or **lossy** formats.

The main difference between lossy and lossless image compression is that lossy compression removes some of the image data *permanently*, while lossless does *not* reduce image quality and only removes non-essential data.



ISO

This is the sensitivity of your camera's own sensor to light. The ISO setting you use depends on the amount of light in the scene you are photographing. The more light you have to work with the lower you can set your ISO. As settings go, ISO is one of the key camera menus you need to learn. [Image Maven](#)



Kit Lens

This is a starter lens which is often sold with a DSLR Camera. It is generally an inexpensive lens priced at the lowest end of the manufacturer's range so as to not add much to a camera kit's price. It is a good lens for practice before you start building a collection of lenses.



Camera Modes

Modes is the word used to describe the dial of pre-set adjustments already made in your camera for popular things photographers use such as Landscape, Portrait, Macro (super closeup).

I recommend [this excellent summary](#) at the Digital Photography School which makes every mode really clear and understandable.



Resolution

Photo resolution is best thought of as image quality. Higher-resolution photographs mean higher image quality. High quality images are more printable as cards or canvases.

The sharpness, definition, and detail go up as the photo resolution does. 72dpi is great for online but you want to aim for anything between 300 and 1,800 dpi when printing off for wall art or posters.



Glossary of Camera and Photography Terms 3



Shutter

When a camera fires, the shutter opens and fully exposes the camera sensor to the light that has passed through your lens. After the sensor is finished collecting the light, the shutter closes immediately, stopping the light from hitting the sensor.

[Photography Life](#) has a detailed and friendly explanation.



Shutter Sound

This is not a definition but a very useful tip for cat photographers.

You may find that your cats dislike the sound of a camera shutter. Be patient and keep taking pictures. The shutter makes a distinctive noise, and your cats will become familiar with it over time. Even my fussiest and most timid cats got used to the noise, but it took time so be patient.

TIP: Check to see if your camera may be able to reduce it's shutter sound. Check the manual.



White Balance

White balance in digital photography means adjusting colours so that the image looks more natural. You can adjust your white balance from Automatic, to interior lighting, sunshine or cloudy days, depending on the conditions.

White balance is the trick that stops your photographs looking orange or have a blue tone when you take inside shots. Check [this blog post](#) for details.



THANK YOU FOR EXPLORING!

I hope I have encouraged you not to be too scared of some of photography's unique words.

The more you read, practice and watch tutorials online, the less scary the words seem. You begin to understand the words are useful and guide you towards better photos.

When you get the Dash Kitten newsletters you will now read the posts and how-to's with ease and confidence.

Marjorie

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