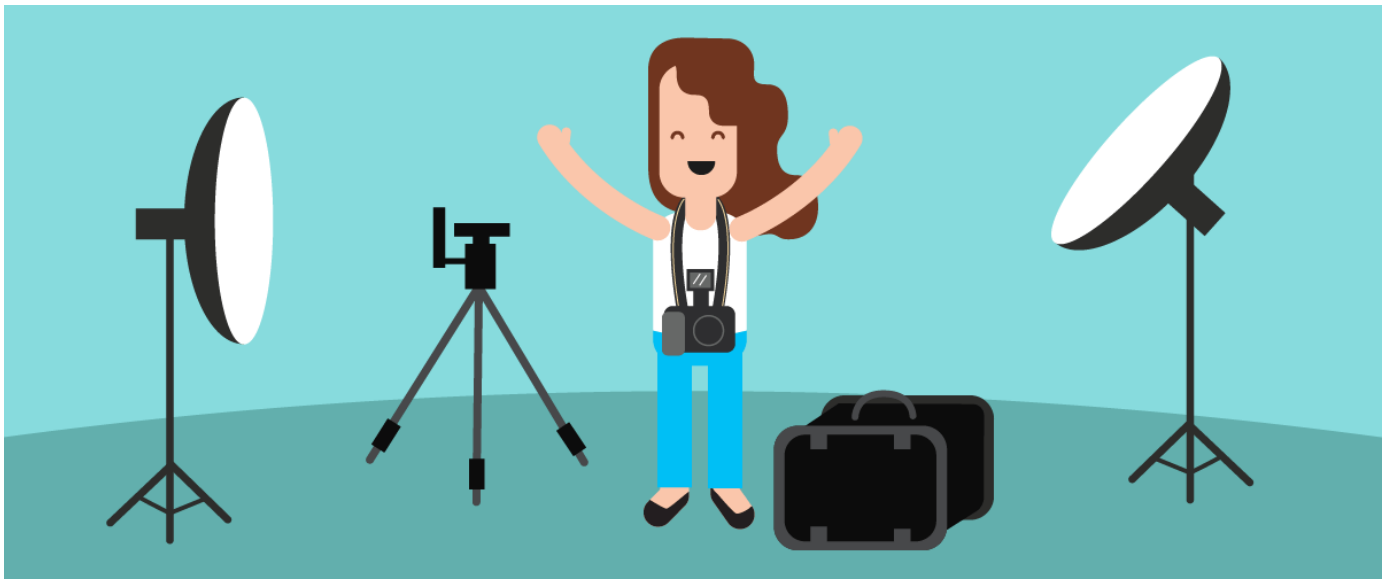
The Ultimate Savings Guide for Beginner Photographers: 50+ Tips and Resources



Wondering how to save money while getting started with photography? The tips and tricks here can help: This is a beginner's guide to photography aimed at bringing novices to a higher level without breaking the bank. We've outlined all the ways you can save while getting into photography as well as some digital photography basics to help you get started on your own. We'll give you plenty of tips for saving and then go through some of the basics of how to get started in photography. It's important have some cursory knowledge of photography so that you can decide on what sort of equipment you'll need as well as how to take care of it, so that you're not constantly buying and re-buying equipment. But there are many aspects of photography that might cost money, from creating prints to setting up your website, and we've covered it all here. We've also highlighted some of the best photography classes as well as tutorials and other places where you can learn. Here are some great resources that will help you take your photography game from zero to hero!

- **Aperture:** A camera aperture is the opening in the lens that light passes through to enter the camera. You can change the size of that opening, controlling how much light you allow to hit the lens, and this causes several different effects, including influencing how much of the image is in focus. Aperture is measured in f-stops. Here's a short tutorial on how to use aperture to your advantage.

- **Aspect Ratio:** This describes the width:height ratio of the final image. Usually, the default aspect ratio is 3:2 for full-frame 35 mm film or 4:3 for DSLRs. This term is used in film as well; for example, high-definition TV usually has an aspect ratio of 16:9.

- **Bokeh**: What is bokeh? Coming from the Japanese word "boke," which means "blur," this phenomenon describes the appealing way bright orbs of light are created in an out-of-focus image. Typically, people love to use a bokeh background with an in-focus subject. Here's a tutorial on how to create the effect.

- **Burst:** "Burst mode" is when a camera continuously snaps photos as you hold the button down. A fast burst rate on a camera is important to anyone looking to do high-speed photography.

- **Composite**: A composite combines multiple images into one, usually via layering. This is important to learn about when learning how to do touch-ups on photographs with software like Adobe Photoshop.

- **Composition:** This is a somewhat vague, art-related term that describes how elements are positioned within a piece and can relate to art, photography, film, and design. Understanding the term within the art world can help to contextualize it within the world of photography.

- **Crop Factor**: This is a bit of a more complicated term, describing how some cameras with a crop sensor might cut off some of the image with a

some cameras with a crop sensor might cut off some of the image with a full-frame lens. Knowing whether or not your camera has a crop sensor will help you find better lens/camera pairings.

- **Depth of Field**: In photography, depth of field, or DoF, describes how deep your image stays in focus — specifically, it's the distance between the nearest and furthest objects in the frame that appear in focus. If the side of your photo is the x axis and the bottom of the photo is the y axis, the depth of field affects the clarity of the z axis, or the illusion of how far back your photo goes. See this helpful guide for what that actually looks like.

- **DSLR**: Photography for beginners typically involves working with a digital single lens reflex (DSLR) camera, which is a very common type of camera.

- **Exposure**: How much light is reaching the camera sensor? That is the exposure, and it also affects how light or dark the final image is. For those daring enough to experiment with manual settings on a camera, the "exposure triangle," which includes the ISO, aperture, and shutter speed, controls your level of exposure.

- **Focal Length**: The distance between the center of the lens and your camera's sensor, measured in millimeters, is the focal length. It's important to know the focal length of whatever lens you might buy because it affects magnification and the angle of view; for instance, a wide-angle lens typically has a focal length of less than 35 mm, and a telephoto lens is typically above 135 mm.

- **Focus**: Focus describes the "sharpness" of the image. If an image is sharp and not blurry, it's described as "in focus." It sounds simple, but the science behind it is actually pretty complicated.

- **F-Stop**: F-stop, or focal stop, is a unit that measures the widening or

closing of your camera's aperture. (See the "aperture" photography definition if you're confused.) F-stops follow a sequence of multiples of the square root of two. A wide opening, for example would be an f/1.4, and a narrow, smaller f-stop would be f/22 or higher.

- **Histogram**: A histogram is a helpful chart in digital photography that reveals the tonal range of an image, helping to tell the photographer if they got a good exposure or a "blown out" shot as well as showing the different color profiles of the image. Here's how to read a histogram.

- **Hyperfocal Distance:** Landscape photographers want a very deep depth of field (or DoF), and this is a metric describing the maximum DoF.

- **ISO**: ISO stands for International Organization for Standardization; this standardized measurement indicates your camera's sensor's light sensitivity. A high ISO, like ISO 3200, allows you to work in low light conditions, whereas a low ISO, like ISO 100, allows you to work in bright conditions without blowing out the final image.

- **Kelvin**: Did you know that light sources typically have a temperature? A kelvin is a unit of measurement for that temperature, which is important to white balance. A bright, sunny day with a blue sky is close to 8,000 K, on the blue end, and candlelight is close to 2,000 K, on the red end.

- **Long Exposure**: When you use a slow shutter speed, this is called a long exposure.

- **Metering Modes**: Metering modes are sort of like automated features that your camera comes with. Metering is how the camera determines the correct aperture and shutter speed. You can often expect spot metering, center-weighted metering, partial metering, and matrix metering options to come with your camera. There are pros and cons for each type.

- **Negative Space**: This is another art term. This one describes the space around the subject in a piece. Design and art are filled with examples that have fun with manipulating negative space, and photography also has those kind of opportunities.

- **Noise**: "Noise" or "grain" describes visual distortions in images, typically in the form of snow or tiny colored pixels. It's very easy for novice photographers to get noise in low-light situations.

- **RAW:** RAW is a type of digital file before the processing or photo-editing stage. Typically, you have a RAW file before you have a JPEG file. "Shooting in RAW" gives you uncompressed images to work with, which can give you more editing opportunities down the line.

- **Rule of Thirds**: The rule of thirds is a principle in art, film, painting, photography, and design that breaks up every image into a matrix of nine cells, with important objects placed at the nodes between them. It can definitely elevate the quality of your compositions.

- **Saturation:** Saturation refers to the color intensity of an image.

- **Shutter Speed**: This is an important photography 101 term. The shutter speed is the amount of time that the shutter is open, exposing your camera's sensor to light. Slow speeds tend to blur moving objects, and fast speeds freeze them. Shutter speed, ISO, and aperture are all part of controlling the exposure of your image.

- **White Balance**: White under different types of light does not look white. Outdoor light will make the white seem blue, whereas indoor light will make it seem orange. A white balance is a quick adjustment that can

  compensate for that color temperature difference.