

Imaging Partnership

INNOVATION IN PHOTOGRAPHY

Introduction and Portraiture

LESSON ONE

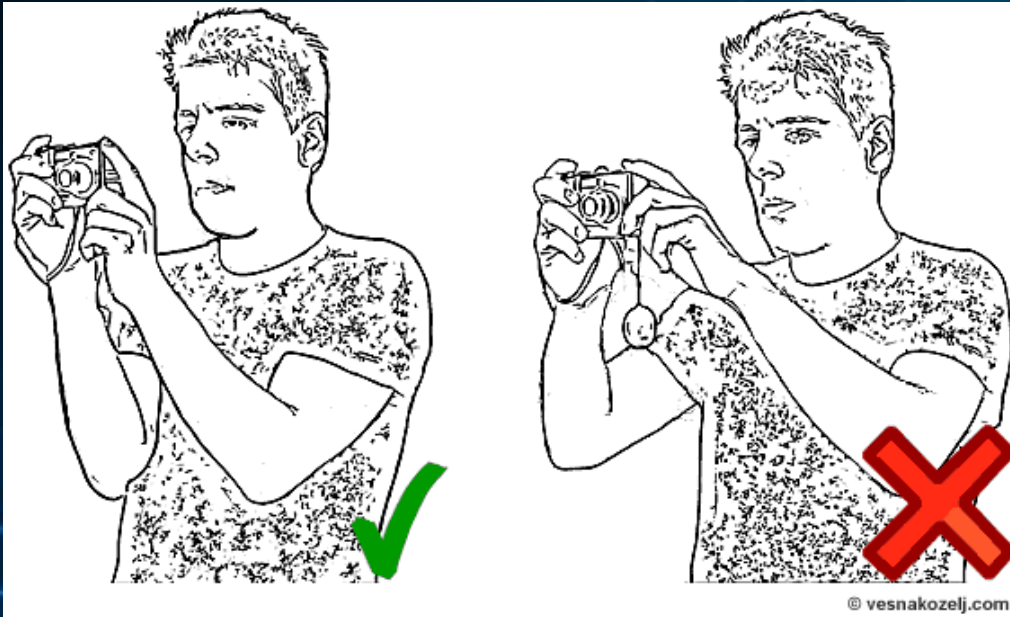
What you will learn:

- Correct techniques for holding camera
- What is meant by the ' eye ' of the camera
- What is meant by 'unwanted or distracting' content
- What is a viewing screen and how it is divided up
- What is meant by the terms ' golden means' and 'golden thirds'
- What is meant by the term ' talking space'

What you should be able to do:

- Demonstrate how to operate camera using correct techniques required
- Demonstrate ability to look at background to subject and appreciate how to decide when its best to take photograph
- Divide viewing screen into 3 vertical and 3 horizontal squares and the centre square being the golden means
- Take photograph using correct techniques as required
- Demonstrate the ability to plan photographs to take advantage of natural light.
- Demonstrate that they can take photographs from a number of different angles.

Holding the Camera



- Holding the camera steady is important if you're a to achieve a good quality photograph
- Start with your feet slightly apart, so you're firmly anchored to the floor
- Then hold the camera firmly on both sides, using the wrist strap if you have one.
- Hold the camera so you can see the screen comfortably and tuck your elbows into your sides

The 'Eye' of the Camera



- Look at the person next to you, make eye contact with them.
- Now look at them through the camera.
- They started as a person, now they are the subject of a photograph
- Remember that it's what you see that's important – the camera just records it.

Portraits



- More photographs are taken of people in different situations, possibly portraits or weddings, than any other subject
- Portraits can either be formal (posed) or informal, where the subject doesn't know they are having a photograph taken.

Portraits - Classic Pose 1



- There are three classic poses for portraits
- The first of those is a full face portrait, where the subject is looking straight at the camera

Portraits – Classic Pose 2



- The second pose, not used so often, is the profile shot
- This can work well where the subject has really interesting features

Portraits – Classic Shot 3



- A more natural pose is the $\frac{3}{4}$ shot
- This is where the client is turned slightly away from the photographer but both eyes can still be seen
- The subject may be looking straight into the camera, or directly ahead

Camera Settings

- When your compact camera is first turned on, it is in wide angle mode. You have to get close to the subject to take their portrait and as you do, this lens causes the features to be distorted – try it!
- A more flattering portrait can be taken if you use 4-5x zoom. This also means you can stand further away from the person.
- Also, if there is enough light, make sure your flash is turned off. This is because flash can flatten the features by taking away any shadows and also takes away skin tone.

Camera Position



- We can capture images using the camera in 3 different positions.
- The first of those is landscape
- So called because it is most often used for landscape photos – but doesn't have to be!
- It's important to make sure the horizon is level

Camera Position



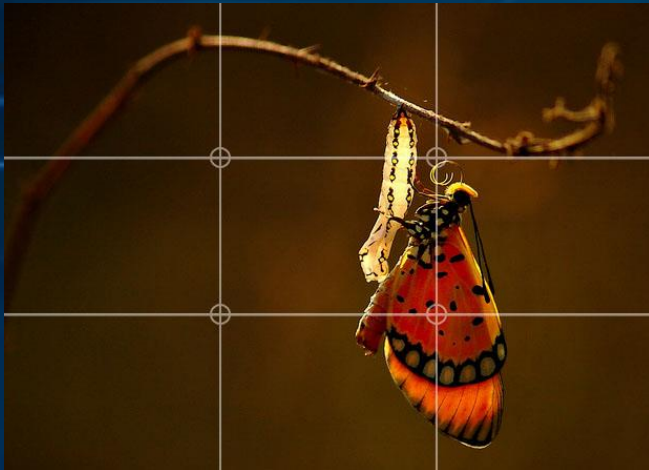
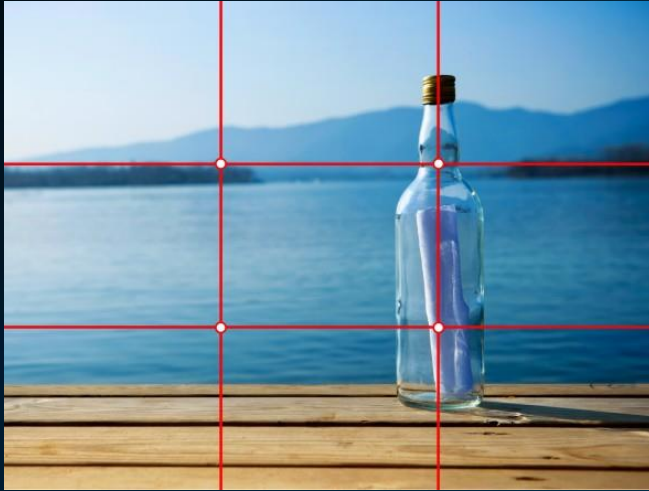
- The next is portrait
- So called because it's the most natural way to capture a portrait
- You may take portrait shots in landscape though, particularly if you want to show some of the background
- Again, make sure the horizon is straight

Fill The Frame Activity



- Photographers will often say 'get in close, then get closer again.'
- Take photos of your partner in full face and profile, leaving a small amount of negative space around the outside of the head

Composition – Rule of Thirds



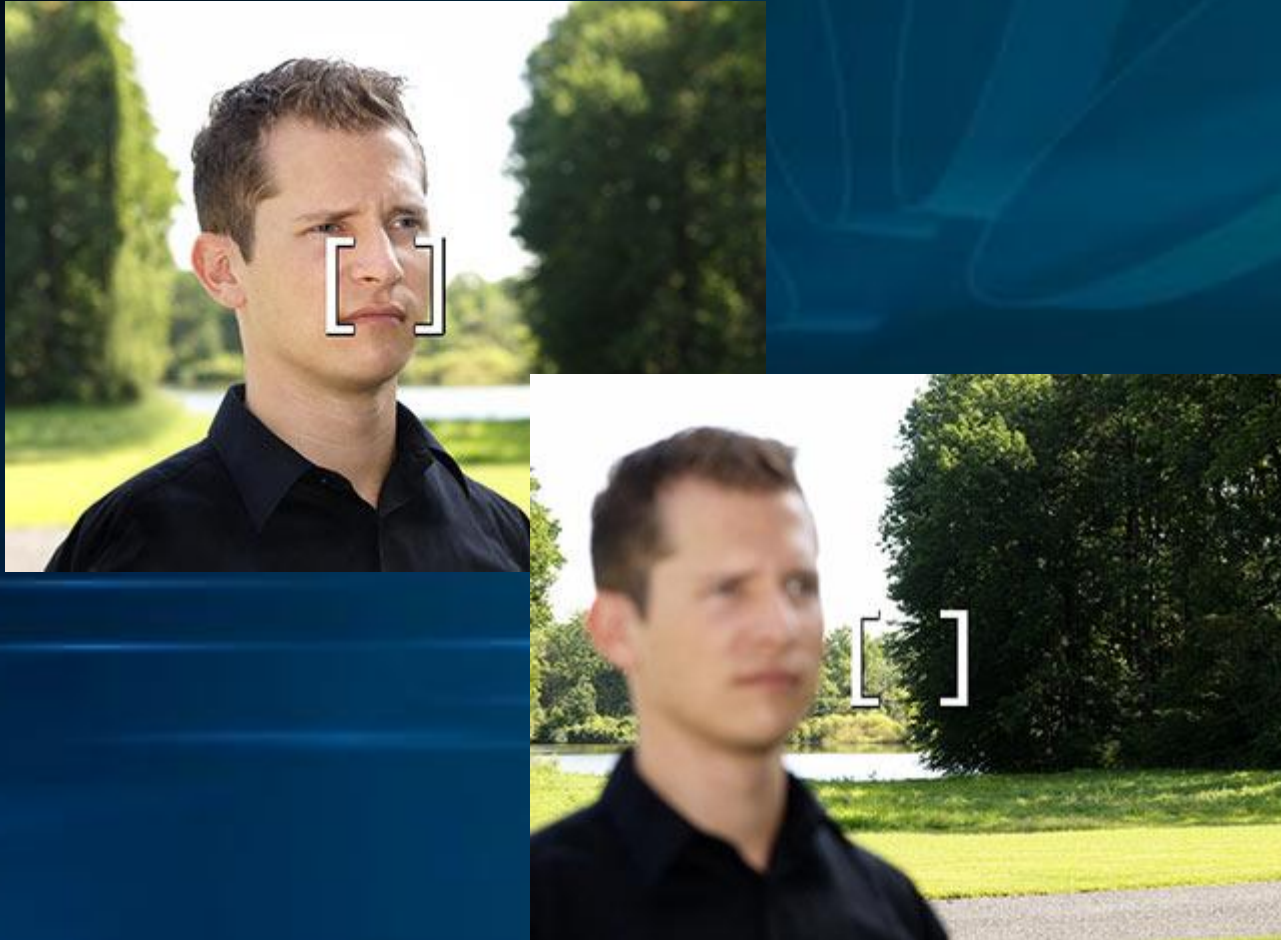
- Using the 'Display' button on the back of your camera, bring up the frame as shown here.
- This is used to help you capture images using the 'Rule of Thirds'
- Rather than having your main subject right in the centre of the photo, it is much more interesting to have them off to the side, lining up with one of the vertical lines.
- The horizontal lines can be used in the same way, perhaps where the land meets the sky.

Golden Mean



- The Golden Mean or Ratio is a method of proportion devised over 2000 years ago
- It can be calculated using Maths and drawn using Geometry
- It is commonly used in everyday design, for example in the shapes of postcards, playing cards, posters, wide-screen televisions, photographs, and cars.
- It can also help us to compose our images, similar to the Rule of Thirds

Focus and Re-compose



- Modern digital cameras are very clever at recognising scenes and deciding what is the main subject, even if it isn't in the centre of the frame, using aids like Facial Recognition.
- Sometimes though, that doesn't work and we get blurry shots because the camera is focussed on the background or another subject.

Focus and Re-compose



- Position your main subject in the centre of your screen
- Press the shutter button halfway, until the box or cross on the screen goes green and/or the camera 'beeps'. That tells you the subject is in focus.
- Still holding the shutter button halfway, move the camera sideways to get a more pleasing composition
- Then press the shutter button all the way down to capture the image

Focus and Re-compose activity



- Now it's your turn!
- Working in pairs capture images of each other in $\frac{3}{4}$ face, focus and re-compose and using the Rule of Thirds for your final composition.

Natural Lighting



- Composition and lighting are the two most important things for a photographer to think about for any picture.
- Natural light from a window can help give form to a face as the side away from the light will be in shadow.

Natural Lighting



- Sometimes, there will be too much contrast between the light and shade
- We may want to lighten the side of the face on the shadow side by using a reflector to bounce the light from the window back onto the shadow side to lighten it.
- The reflector can be anything from a piece of card to a professional large reflector

Natural Lighting Activity



- Pupils to practice using natural light, taking shots of partner with head at different angles to the light source.

Camera Angles



- We don't just have to capture images looking straight at our subject
- What about capturing them from below or above?
- Experiment! - It's the best way to get better at photography

So what have we learned?

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- What is meant by the term 'talking space'