

- with a **digital camera**, you have the **freedom** to take many photos, so **experiment**. Go out and turn your camera **off auto**, be brave and get used to using some of the other settings on your camera.
- once you have tried it and practised, it becomes second nature, **don't be scared** to turn those dials.
- you can use the **pre-programmed** modes such as macro, portrait, sport to start your move away from auto
- just use them in the **right situation**, try it
- if you are out turn it to landscape mode, take some shots, see how they **differ** from auto
- if you are photographing your pets or your kids, turn it to **portrait** mode and see what happens
- like anything, by getting used to your camera and its settings you will soon gain **confidence**

have a go at not using auto

tips

- think about **what** you are going out to photograph?
- hold your camera correctly and keep it steady
- try and look at the **weather** forecast if you are going out and prepare for everything you might need.
- make sure your **batteries** are fully charged
- check you have enough **memory** cards
- give your **lenses** a clean
- will you need a **tripod**?
- have a **cloth** for wiping your camera if its wet
- think about the light, where people are positioned, move into the shade if you can
- if you are going out to take landscape shots, **remember the light**. Midday sun always gives a harsh flat light, try and catch the '**magic hour**' at sunrise and sunset, its worth the effort
- if you are photographing indoors at a party have spare batteries for your camera and **flash**
- finally, try and be **prepared**, it makes for an easier day out and helps you concentrate on taking the photos.












- try and use a **viewfinder**, to help you walk around and find the shot
- **remember**, don't just stand at your height, bend down, lie down or find a high vantage point it all makes a difference
- try and include some **foreground interest**, to help lead your eye into the photo, it makes a difference
- try and use the **rule of thirds** for a balance photo but rules are there to be broken
- The **basic principle** behind the rule of thirds is to imagine breaking an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so that you have 9 parts. As follows.
- With this grid in mind the rule of thirds now identifies four important parts of the image that you should consider placing points of interest in as you frame your image.

composition

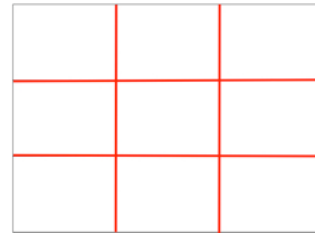


pocket guide

try using different modes

- The number and type of exposure or **shooting modes** on a camera varies between manufacturers and between camera models.
- Broadly speaking they are divided into three sections: **Auto mode**, **Scene Modes** and the **P,A, S and M modes**. once you have tried it and practised, it becomes second nature, **dont be scared** to turn those dials.
- **Auto** - Think of the green square as the **snapshot mode**, where the camera will make all the decisions for you, not only regarding exposure settings but also ISO and whether the flash fires etc. 
- **Flash Off Mode** - This works in the same way as full Auto, but ensures the **flash does not fire**. This is useful for shooting in locations where flash photography is not allowed. 
- **Portrait** - This sets the widest aperture suitable for the lighting conditions to restrict depth of field and blur backgrounds. So f2.8 etc 
- **Landscape** - Small apertures are selected to give maximum depth of field (f22), which often results in slow shutter speeds, so best to use a tripod. 
- **Close Up/Macro** - Large apertures are selected here as the camera tries to increase the depth of field. 
- **Sports** - Sets a fast shutter speed along with continuous AF and drive modes in order to capture sharp photos of moving objects. ISO may be pushed higher than desired. 
- **Night Portrait** - Flash will be used to illuminate the subject while a slow shutter speed captures the colour and detail of surroundings. If you are using a pop up flash you will need to be close to the subject. 
- **P Mode** - Also known as the **Programmed Auto Exposure**, this sees the camera pairing aperture and shutter speed based on its exposure reading. You can then shift these settings if you wish. 
- **Aperture Priority Mode** - You set the **aperture** and the camera sets the shutter speed for you. This mode is great for control over depth of field. 
- **Shutter Priority Mode** - You set the **Shutter** speed and the camera sets the aperture for you. This mode is ideal if you want to freeze action or create motion blur with a slow one. 
- **Manual Mode** - **Manual** lets you adjust both the aperture and shutter speed for complete control and the camera won't change these even if the light changes. Good for flash lighting and panoramas. 

a bit more about composition



- **The Rule of Thirds** - The theory is that if you place points of interest in the intersections or along the lines that your photo

becomes more balanced and will enable a viewer of the image to interact with it more naturally.

- Studies have shown that when viewing images that people's eyes usually go to one of the intersection points most naturally rather than the centre of the shot – using the rule of thirds works with this natural way of viewing an image rather than working against it.
- **Framing Images** - Framing images - While adding points of interest to a foreground is an important technique for adding interest to landscape shots - a similar technique is to frame the shot by adding interest to other parts of the edges of an image.



- **Using diagonal lines** can be a very effective way of drawing the eye of those viewing an image into it and to the main focal point.
- The lines need not be actual lines they could be the shape of a path, a line of trees, a fence, river or any other feature.



- **Lead In Lines** - Use natural lines in your photo such as fences or paths to lead the eye into a photo.

