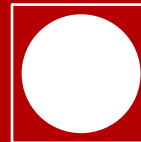
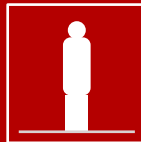




PHOENICIA UNIVERSITY

Photography Essentials

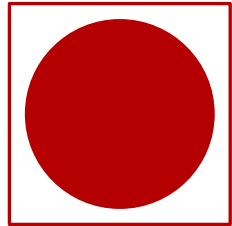
Shot Types, Composition & Common Pitfalls



A survey of shot types, framing, angles, and light

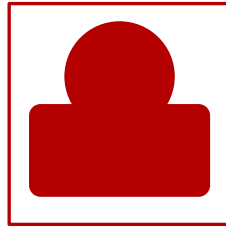
1 Understanding Shot Types

The “shot type” — how much of the subject and surroundings the frame includes — is one of the first choices a photographer makes, and it shapes how a viewer reads the image.



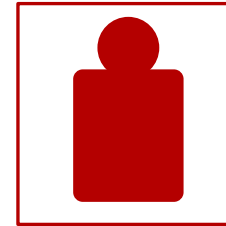
Extreme close-up

Fills the frame with fine detail.



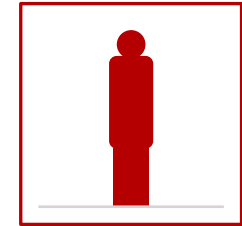
Close-up

Isolates a face or small subject.



Medium shot

Waist-up; balances detail and context.



Wide / long shot

The subject within its full setting.

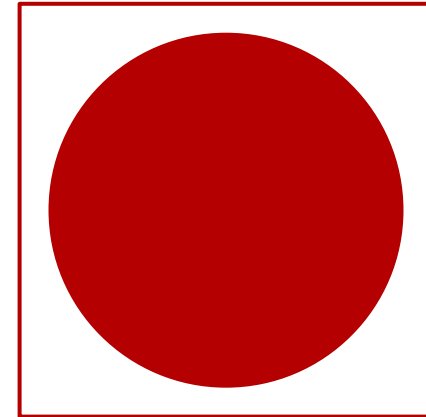
Same subject, four different frames — each one changes what the viewer focuses on.

2 The Power of the Close-Up

A close-up strips away distraction and directs the viewer's full attention to one subject — an expression, a texture, a small detail that a wider shot would lose entirely.

When to use it

- To capture emotion or expression on a face
- To highlight fine texture — skin, fabric, natural patterns
- To draw attention to a small but important detail
- To create intimacy or intensity in a portrait

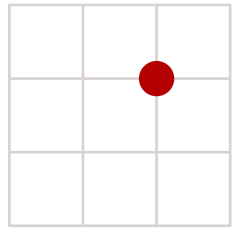


Extreme close-up crop

Watch for

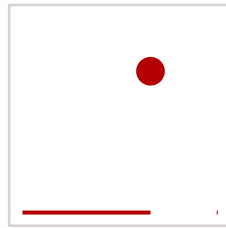
- Focus must be precise at close range
- Shallow depth of field can blur too much
- Fill the frame deliberately, not by accident

3 Composition Basics



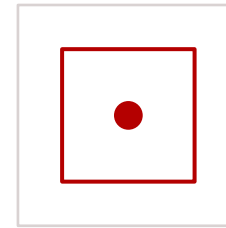
Rule of thirds

Place key elements along imagined gridlines, not dead center.



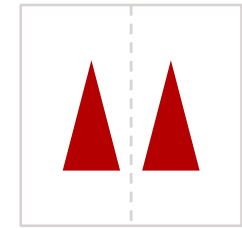
Leading lines

Use roads, edges, or shadows to draw the eye to the subject.



Framing

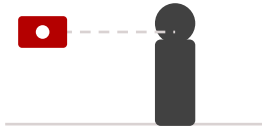
Use doorways or branches to frame the subject within the shot.



Symmetry & patterns

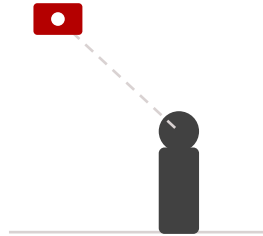
Repetition and mirrored elements create visual interest.

4 Camera Angles



Eye level

Neutral and natural.



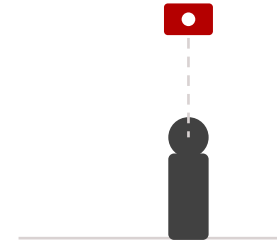
High angle

Can make the subject look smaller.



Low angle

Can make the subject look powerful.



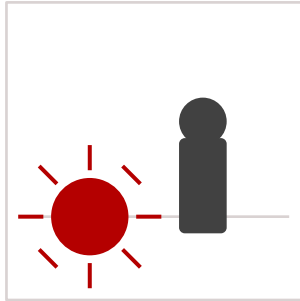
Bird's eye

Reveals pattern, layout, and scale.

The dashed line marks the camera's sightline to the subject in each diagram.

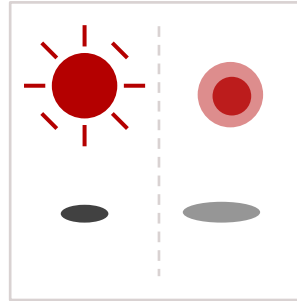
The same subject can feel completely different depending on where the camera sits.

5 Lighting Fundamentals



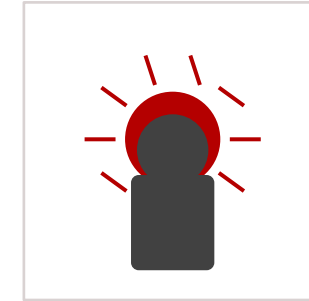
Golden hour

The soft, warm light shortly after sunrise or before sunset — flattering and low-contrast.



Hard vs. soft light

Hard light (direct sun) creates sharp shadows; soft, diffused light creates gentle gradients.



Backlighting

Light from behind the subject can create silhouettes or a glowing rim of light.

Light is often what separates a good photo from a great one — more than the camera itself.

6 Common Photography Issues



Missed focus — the subject is soft while the background is sharp, or vice versa



Overexposure or underexposure — blown-out highlights or lost shadow detail



Cluttered backgrounds that compete with the subject



Cutting off part of the subject awkwardly at the frame's edge



Camera shake causing blur, especially in low light



Flat, uninteresting light at midday with harsh overhead shadows

7

Quick Tips for Better Photos

1

Check focus on the eyes or key detail before you shoot, not after.

2

Move your feet — recompose by changing position, not just zoom.

3

Simplify the background so nothing distracts from the subject.

4

Shoot in soft, early or late daylight whenever possible.

5

Take a few extra frames from slightly different angles or distances.

6

Review shots as you go, not only at the end of a session.



Key Takeaways

- Shot type — from extreme close-up to wide shot — shapes how much context and detail a viewer sees.
- Close-ups demand precise focus but reward the photographer with intimacy and impact.
- Composition tools like the rule of thirds and leading lines guide the eye deliberately.
- Angle and light change the mood and feel of a shot as much as the subject itself.
- Most common issues — blur, exposure, clutter — are avoidable with a slower, more deliberate approach.