

# Assessing your own Photos





# Wait!

Separate emotion from the evaluation.

Don't let your excitement about a great capture get in the way of your objectivity.



# Take a Step Back

- \* Don't be too caught up with details
- \* Consider the overall look
- \* Do I like it?
- \* Is it a keeper?
- \* Does the image convey what I intended?



# Is your image “horizontally challenged”?



A horizon that tilts is the first thing the viewer will notice, and will ruin the impact of your image.



# What about the verticals?

It's equally important to check that vertical lines are straight.





# Is it sharp?

- \* Zoom in 1:1 and pan around the image to evaluate sharpness.
- \* Consider the part of the photo where sharpness is essential—e.g an animal, bird, or portrait. Are the eyes sharp?





# Exposure

- \* Examine the image as a whole and check overall exposure.
- \* Are any areas blown out?
- \* Is there any indication of clipping?

A lot of issues can be resolved in post-processing but they can also be prevented before you press the shutter.

Keep the Exposure Triangle in mind!



# Bracketing

Another way to ensure optimum exposure would be to take several shots at different settings and combine them using software.

Some cameras will do this automatically.





# Check for noise

- \* Zoom in and evaluate carefully.
- \* Possible causes: Poor lighting conditions, ISO too high; long exposure times; smaller sensors; compact cameras.
- \* Be careful to avoid introducing noise during the editing process.





# Chromatic Aberration

(Fringing, or colour distortion that creates an unwanted outline of edges of objects in an image.)

Possible causes:

- Some lenses, e.g. even expensive wide-angle
- Backlit scenes

Chromatic Aberration can be corrected in some software, e.g. Lightroom, Camera Raw.





# Blemishes and distractions

Carefully eliminate anything that will distract the viewer's attention from your photo.

Dust spots, and water droplets on your lens are easy to get rid of using editing software, but it's better to look for these while focussing. Before you press the shutter, look closely for any eye-catching distractions that can spoil the overall image.



# Would cropping improve your image?

- \* It's critical to check the edges of the frame and watch for objects partially in the frame.
- \* Evaluate carefully to ensure you don't create problems by cropping.
- \* Think of the creative potential—you might have a completely different image hiding there that cropping will reveal.



# And finally...

“There are always two people in every picture: the photographer and the viewer.”

—*Ansel Adams*



# *Sources:*

- Tim Grey
- Robert Bishop
- [adobe.com](https://adobe.com)

AngelaG owns up to all the image examples—  
good and bad!