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Scroll down the page and click on 'Photos' here. It's under the heading "Customer Zone"

Select from 'Essential guides' – suitable for the beginner, or 'Advanced guides' – for more information.

Don't be afraid to dip into the 'Advanced guides' – there are some good ideas and they're easy to understand.

Topics covered in 'Essential guides' include;

- Why go digital - Discover the benefits of digital cameras. Taking pictures is just the beginning.
- Send, share & print - Share your albums and order digital prints. **Don't start here!**
- Handy tips for taking good pictures - Get great results from your photography.
- Enhance your photos - Follow our guides and improve your pictures.
- Glossary of digital photography terms - Let us explain the jargon.
- Essential photo kit - The right equipment and features to take good pics.
- Essential video kit - All you need to know for a basic DV (digital video) setup

Topics covered in 'Advanced guides' include;

- Composition tips - Frame your shots carefully and raise your game.
- Colour techniques - Create different moods by the intelligent use of colours.
- Light techniques - Experiment with different lighting for great results.
- Colour temperature - Use white balance to suit the shooting conditions.
- Change perspective - Achievable effects with different lenses and angles.
- The rule of thirds - Learn how to use this powerful compositional device.

Just a word of warning:

These guides contain excellent information but may contain information about partner companies. An example is PhotoBox – this company features heavily in the "Send, share & print" section. Don't get too bogged down with these details. Your best bet is to talk to someone who has experience e.g. Gerry. There are many alternatives some of them easier to understand e.g. Picasa from Google. That said many people use PhotoBox.

Here's an example of one of the 'Essential guides'

Handy tips for good photos

If you are new to digital photography, there are several key factors worth bearing in mind to get the best results. We cover a few of the basics here.

Double check the focus

Auto-focus digital cameras usually lock the focus on the centre of the picture, so if you do not wish your subject to be in the centre, hold the shutter button halfway down and the screen on the camera will offer you alternative focuses. It's a very useful feature, especially for 'point and shoot' users, but experimenting with the manual focus can produce some interesting results. Try blurring subjects in the foreground or background to emphasise different elements within your photos.



Hold the camera level and steady

There's nothing worse than wonky angles, particularly when photographing landscapes, so remember to use the LCD screen or viewfinder on your digital camera to carefully frame your shots. Holding the camera closer to your body with both hands can help prevent camera shake that causes blurring and simply leaning against a wall or balancing the camera on a surface can make a significant difference.



Take spare memory / Batteries

It may seem obvious, but if you're off on holiday for a few weeks and feeling snap happy, it's worth investing in both extra memory and spare batteries. The latest digital cameras with big LCD displays and zooms tend to be quite power hungry and may only get you through one day's shooting. Cameras that use standard AA batteries have the advantage that they can be bought everywhere in the world, though the rechargeable lithium-polymer ones offer the best energy to weight ratio. Cameras that take both are ideal.



Experiment with the flash

For the best results, always use your flash within its specified range, and if inside move your subjects closer to any available light. Try experimenting using the flash manually. Whilst the automatic setting is useful, it can produce some unnatural colours when used indoors. The fill flash function can work well in bright sunlight, removing facial shadows and providing sharper detail.



As you can see there are some simple but helpful tips.

They are easy to remember and make a real difference to the images you can take.

A copy of an 'Advanced guide' "10 Top Composition Tips" follows:

10 top composition tips



- Background, background, background...**
When framing a shot, pay as much attention to the background as you do to your subject. A complimentary background can enhance a mundane subject; a poor choice of background will make a great subject fall flat.
- Keep it simple**
The strongest compositions are ones that get their message across quickly. Look for the building blocks of a great photograph in lines and shapes.
- Make it personal**
Ask yourself what you're drawn to in a scene — the height of a building, the patterns in a field, the shape of a flower — and bring that element out.
- Watch the cropping**
When you're framing people, avoid chopping them off at the knees or ankles.
- Think about numbers**
Odd numbers of things tend to be visually more exciting than even amounts. Triangles are more dynamic than squares or rectangles, which echo the boundaries of the frame. Three's the magic number?
- Raise your aspirations**
Tell yourself that you're going to take the best photograph you've ever taken when you get up in the morning. This can lead to disappointment in the short term, but in the long term you'll definitely raise your game.
- Study the masters**
Take time to search out the cream of contemporary and classic photography and work out what it is about their composition that makes all the elements click into place.
- Avoid cliché**
Don't be happy with simply imitating other photos that you've seen. Think about using different lenses, treatments and viewpoints. Don't be afraid to lie down in the mud or sand. Be determined to create something more artistic than you were producing a year ago.
- Shoot plenty of frames**
Really work a subject — your first shot is rarely your best one, and you're not wasting film any more. Work through early framing options to chisel your vision and weed out the duff ideas.
- Always carry a camera with you**
The more you shoot — family, friends, daily life — the more you'll begin to refine your eye for composition. Then, when a once-in-a-lifetime shot presents itself, framing it quickly will be second nature.

Some of these are a bit 'over the top' but I've highlighted some that are useful to even a beginner. So just use the bits that help & forget the rest.

One of their excellent features is a Glossary to explain terms. Use it to check up on terms from time to time – DON'T try to learn them.

Digital photography glossary

New to digital photography and still struggling with the basic technical jargon? We explain some of the most commonly used terms to help you get started.

Aperture: The opening inside the lens that controls the amount of light that reaches the camera's sensor.

Auto exposure mode: Many cameras can control the exposure, shutter speed and aperture to compensate for available light.

Avi: A file format used by Microsoft Windows that contains video and sound.

Digital zoom: This is a type of zoom on digital cameras that imitates a regular 35mm zoom by enlarging the centre section of the subject. It does not, however, increase the amount of detail, so the further you zoom in, the more the image will degrade.

Dpi/Ppi: Dots per inch/Pixels per inch: a measurement of the resolution of a digital photo or device. For example, 72Ppi means there are 72 x 72 pixels in every inch of an image.

Fill flash: A flash feature included on some digital cameras that forces the flash to fire, even in bright light. It can be useful when taking pictures in sunlight, removing unwanted shadows from faces and making objects appear more colourful.

FireWire, IEEE 1394: A cable for transferring data to and from peripheral devices at high speed. It is used as a faster alternative to USB by many digital cameras.

Image stabilisation: Many camcorders compensate for some degree of camera shake during recording by capturing a larger frame and cropping the edges of the image electronically when the camera moves.

Jpeg: This is the most commonly used digital image format and is universally compatible with image viewers and editing software. It allows photographic images to be compressed with little noticeable loss in image quality.

Macro mode: A lens mode that allows you to get very close to objects so they appear greatly enlarged in the picture. Very handy for taking photos of small subjects.

Memory card: Many cameras and camcorders store images and video on removable memory cards which can be read by a card reader connected to your computer.

Megapixel: One million pixels, a unit of measurement in an image.

Pixels: The small picture elements (dots) that make up a digital photograph.

Resolution: This is the number and density of pixels an image contains. The more pixels used, the more detail can be seen and therefore the higher the image's resolution.

Shutter lag: The time between the shutter being pressed and the image captured. It can be a real problem when shooting moving subjects.

Tiff: A widely used file format that is compatible with most image editing and viewing programs, though not supported by web browsers.

USB cable: A cable for transferring data to and from peripheral devices. USB is faster than serial or parallel connections, though not as fast as FireWire.

White balance: As most light sources are not 100% pure white, a digital camera needs to find a reference point which represents white. It will then calculate all the other colours based on this white point.

Under the Digital Guides heading in the left hand column you will also find advice on the following topics:

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Nobody knows it all.

There's something here for everyone and this is just the start.

Virgin Media have masses of these tutorials. The hardest part is finding them.