



Camera Settings For Every Scenario

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We created the camera settings cheat sheet to help the community learn how to use their cameras to their highest potential. We know that using a full featured professional camera can be daunting, even discouraging to a point, and we hope that this guide will help you get more enjoyment out of your camera!

The settings in this guide are mostly a starting point as conditions will vary due to time of year, location, and of course, weather. Despite that, most of these settings will give you a basis that should be within only a couple stops of where you need to be for each scenario.

Important Note: Whenever we use the term "lowest possible" for a setting, this means lowest possible for a good exposure. Given the other settings, use the setting described as "lowest possible" to balance your exposure.

That's it! Now go get some great pictures & feel free to tag us on Instagram @learnphotoskills when you share.

- The L.P.S. Crew



Camera Settings For Every Scenario

Settings for landscapes

(no blur)

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125th or faster
- **Aperture:** f/4 or darker
- **ISO:** 100 or lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for flying birds

- **Shutter Speed (big bird):** min 1/1250
- **Shutter Speed (small bird):** min 1/2000
- **Aperture:** f/8
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** servo

*Lenses have a large effect on the outcome of bird photographs

Settings for people walking

- **Shutter Speed:** minimum 1/250
- **Aperture:** f/2 - f/4 in daylight, use brightest possible indoors
- **ISO for Daylight:** 100 - 400
- **ISO for Indoors:** 800 - 3200
- **Focus Mode:** servo

Settings for portraits outdoors

- **Shutter Speed for person holding still:** 1/125
- **Shutter Speed for person posing:** 1/250 - 1/400
- **Aperture:** f2.0 as your brightest (this will give you awesome background blur)
- **ISO:** 100 - 200
- **Focus Mode:** servo

Settings for non-moving car photography

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125
- **Aperture:** f/8 - f/16
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for moving race cars or motorcycles

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/4000 min
- **Aperture:** As dark as possible
- **ISO/Daylight:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** servo



Camera Settings For Every Scenario

Settings for macro photography & insects & flowers

- **Shutter Speed when handheld:** 1/320
- **Shutterspeed when on tripod:** 1/125
- **Aperture:** f/10 – f/16
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode when handheld:** servo (fast lens) or manual (slower lens)
- **Focus Mode when on tripod:** one-shot

Settings for field sports (soccer, football, rugby)

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/500
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** servo

**For baseball – increase shutterspeed to capture swinging of bat*

Settings for still product photography

- Use a flash
- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125
- **Aperture:** f/8 to f/16
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for sunny day at the beach

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/1000
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** 100 –200
- **Focus Mode:** servo

Settings for architecture shots outdoors

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125th
- **Aperture:** f/8 to f/16
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot
- Use a wide angle lens

Settings for cloudy days

- **Shutter Speed:** lowest shutter speed possible
- **Aperture:** brightest possible
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** servo





Camera Settings For Every Scenario

Settings for cat photography indoors

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125 – 1/400
- **Aperture:** brightest possible
- **ISO:** 800
- **Focus Mode:** servo

Settings for dog photography with movement

- **Shutter Speed:** min 1/1000
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** lowest possible
- **Focus Mode:** servo

Settings for sunset

- **Shutter Speed:** As low as possible for the exposure 1/400 – 1/800
- **Aperture:** f/8
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for a foggy day

- **Shutter Speed:** lowest to prevent camera shake
- **Aperture:** brightest possible
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for waterfalls/blurred water

- Use a tripod
- Use a 6–10 ND filter, for daylight use an 8–10 ND filter
- **Shutter Speed:** 15s – 30s
- **Aperture:** f/8
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** manual

Settings for fireworks

- Use tripod
- **Shutter Speed:** 1/1 or longer
- **Aperture:** f/8 – f/10
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** manual or one-shot





Camera Settings For Every Scenario

Settings for night photography, handheld in lit area

- **Shutter Speed:** 1 over your focal length (for example a 50mm lens would be 1/50)
- **Aperture:** brightest your lens can produce
- **ISO:** 1000 - 6400
- **Focus Mode:** one-shot

Settings for night photography with tripod

- Use a tripod
- **Shutter Speed:** 1/4
- **Aperture:** the brightest your lens can produce
- **ISO:** 100
- **Focus Mode:** manual or one-shot

Settings for moon photography on tripod with a 600mm lens or longer

- **Shutter Speed:** 1/125
- **Aperture:** f/4
- **ISO:** 100 - 200
- **Focus Mode:** manual
- The most important thing is holding the camera still. Be sure the surface your tripod on does not shake.

We hope this cheat sheet has helped you learn to use your camera's settings more effectively. If there is any scenerio we missed, feel free to email us at lps@learnphotographyskills.com and we'll send you some suggested settings.