



MASTERING: Shutter Speed



WHAT IS SHUTTER SPEED?

Your camera's shutter speed controls the length of time that your camera's sensor is exposed to the light entering your camera.

Having control of shutter speed enables you as a photographer to be much more creative in your photography.



HOW TO USE & SET YOUR SHUTTER SPEED?

Shutter speed is measured in in fractions of a second, your camera's settings will display something like this.

30" 20" 15"

1/250 1/500 1/1000

Examples of slow shutter speeds

Examples of fast shutter speeds



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SHUTTER SPEED?

What you are photographing often determines whether you need a slow or fast shutter speed.

Wildlife, sports and moving subjects require a fast shutter speed to freeze the motion and get a sharp image

If you want to show movement in your photography then a slow shutter speed is required



HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR SHUTTER SPEED?

This chart shows the effect your shutter speed has on your subject and also the effect it has on light.

SHUTTER SPEED MOTION 1" 1/2 sec 1/4 sec 1/8 sec 1/15 sec 1/30 sec 1/60 sec 1/125 sec 1/250 sec 1/500 sec 1/1000 sec SLOW SHUTTER SPEED LIGHT MORE LIGHT LESS LIGHT



By choosing a slow shutter speed you can really let your creativity flow and allow a sense of movement into your photographs. This could be like the light trails on this photo or it could be used to show movement in water or clouds. A long exposure can also be used to simply allow more light into your camera.

SLOW SHUTTER SPEED LONG EXPOSURE





FAST SHUTTER SPEEDS?

When photographing moving subjects, such as wildlife, sports and any other genre of photography where your camera is handheld and you wish to freeze motion then a fast shutter speed is required to prevent motion blur or camera shake.



TIP: A faster shutter speed restricts light coming into your camera, you may need to have a wider aperture or a higher ISO to compensate for this.







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