Taking Better Photos: 10 Tips For Beginners

So you've got the latest camera and the biggest lenses but you're still not happy with the pictures you're taking. It takes more than high-end gear to end up with the best photos, as this article will explain. Go from Facebook photographer to picture pro starting with these 10 easy steps. For all of those reading who are wanting to get into photography the Nikon D3100 is an excellent entry-level digital SLR camera, and it's going for a bargain price over on eBay.

1. Rule of thirds

One of the classic rules of photography - don't place your subject in the direct centre of the frame and Instead put them slightly to the left or right. The great thing is many cameras come with features that display a grid displaying thirds, leaving you to only think about the photo.

2. Carry your camera everywhere

You never know when there'll be something you want to capture. Even taking a less powerful but smaller camera means you can stay active within your hobby, ready for when that perfect shot makes itself known. Constant use will also mean that you'll come to...

3. Understand your camera

Learn exactly how the functions and options on your camera work. Just take some time to play around and see what kind of results you get - don't be afraid to experiment. Once you do, that knowledge will be crucial for taking memorable shots in the future

4. Eye contact

Never lose sight of your subject. The simple act of engaging them in eye contact can bring so much personality and depth into a shot, making others who see it connect with the subject. This is especially important for portraits - nothing is as strong as a piercing glance.

5. Think about the background

Be conscious of where you're taking your photographs. It can be easy to forget about backgrounds and have them end up being too busy or distracting. If there's ever a choice between simple and complicated backgrounds, always go simple. Speaking of backgrounds...

6. Framing

This is great for artistically-minded people. Use the lines in you backgrounds to draw the viewers eyes where you want them: surround subjects with arches or create a sense of height with tall buildings. Don't be afraid to be creative.

7. Use flash during the day

During parts of the day when the sun is brightest, harsh shadows can make photographs dark and muddy. Switching your flash on might seem counterintuitive but it'll result in a move evenly lit and smoother subject, drastically improving the quality of the shot.

8. Stop looking at the screen!

Your first job is capturing the moment, so checking pictures comes later. Just stay focused and keep snapping - remember that with a digital camera ad it's huge capacity there's no reason to stop!

9. Keep it simple

No one's won an award for taking a picture of everything at once. Let pictures speak for themselves, remember that you're simply there to create a lasting memory of the moment.

10.   Practice every day and have fun!

Just get out there and take some really cool pictures, simple as!