

Photography Terms

FOR *Journalism*
TEACHERS ONLY

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/6763>

You, too, can talk like a professional photographer.

aperture: opening in the lens through which light passes to strike the film.

ASA: arithmetically progressive rating of the sensitivity to light (American Standards Association).

background: area behind the main subject in a photograph

bracketing: method of compensating for uncertainties in exposure, by making a series of exposures of a single subject, and changing the exposure settings (shutter speed and aperture) for each.

camera shake: unintentional movement of the camera during exposure, causing blur.

contact sheet: a print of all the frames of a roll of film arranged in strips same-size, from which negatives can be selected for enlargement.

contrast: difference in brightness between adjacent areas of tone.

depth of field: the portion of the picture which is in sharp focus.

electronic flash: artificial light source

emulsion: light-sensitive substance on the film and photographic paper

enlargement: A print that is larger than the negative. Also called a blow-up.

enlarger: A device consisting of a light source, a negative carrier, and a lens, and a means of adjusting these to project an image from a negative to a piece of photographic paper.

equivalent exposure: $\text{exposure} = \text{intensity} \times \text{time}$. This allows you to change the setting of the shutter speed and aperture controls and maintain the same amount of exposure. Also called reciprocity law.

exposure: the amount of light reaching the emulsion; product of intensity and time.

fixer: solution which makes the developed image permanent

f-stop: size of the lens opening

film: the light sensitive material used for exposure, generally in a camera.

film speed rating: the sensitivity of a film to light, measured on a standard scale, such as ASA

filter: colored, transparent material fitted to a lens altering the characteristics of light passing through it.

focal length: the distance between the center of a lens and its focal point. (telephoto, wide angle, normal)

focus: to adjust the distance scale on a camera so that the image is sharp on the focal plane.

foreground: The area between the camera and the main subject.

graininess: the granular appearance of a picture, usually caused by improper developing.

hypo: alternative name for fixer; sodium thiosulphate

hypo eliminator: chemical used to clear fixer from the emulsion of film or paper

ISO: International film speed rating system (International Standards Organization). Effectively identical to ASA ratings.

latent image: the invisible image formed by exposing the emulsion to light. It becomes visible when developed.

lens: A transparent device for converging or diverging rays of light by refraction.

merger: the appearance of objects being attached to or growing out of other objects in a photograph

negative: photographic image with reversed tones, used to make a positive image or print.

normal lens: lens with a focal length equal to the diagonal of the film format. It produces an image which appears to have normal perspective and angle of view.

panning: a smooth rotation of the camera so as to keep a moving subject continuously in the frame.

reciprocity law: see equivalent exposure

safelight: light source used in a darkroom with a color and intensity that does not affect the light sensitive material on photographic paper.

shutter: camera mechanism that controls the period of time that image-focusing light is allowed to strike film.

single lens reflex: camera design that allows the image focused on the film plane to be previewed.

stop bath: chemical that neutralizes the action of the developer on an emulsion

telephoto lens: lens with an angle of view narrow than that considered normal. Brings far off objects into closer view. Long focal length.

test strip: test of various exposures made with an enlarger.

variable contrast paper: printing paper with a single emulsion which can be used at different degrees of contrast by means of selected filters

wetting agent: chemical that weakens the surface tension of water, and reduces the risk of spots on dried film

wide-angle lens: Lens with an angle of view wider than that considered normal by the human eye. Short focal length.

zoom lens: Lens with a continuously variable focal length over a certain range at any given focus and aperture.