

Composition-1

Everyone can learn to take good photographs! By avoiding a few basic errors you can develop an eye for composition and take better images.

Good pictures are made in the viewfinder. A photographer may produce technically superb results with good equipment, however if the original image is not well composed, the photographer may find the picture disappointing. Not everyone is born with that elusive 'eye for a picture'--but with practice, most photographers learn to avoid common mistakes thereby improving their images.

Of course, there are no hard and fast rules that can guarantee brilliant creative photographs every time. Identifying a potential picture and exploiting it to full effect is a matter of artistic judgement and can be easily learnt. Nevertheless, there are a few guidelines that may give you an idea of what to look for, and what to avoid.

While stunning results may sometimes be achieved by deliberately ignoring these "rules", you will learn to develop your own photographic style from your successes and failures.

Using the viewfinder

Perhaps the most valuable lesson photographers learn from experience is to think before pressing the shutter. While there are some situations in which a

moment's hesitation is a moment lost, it is worth spending a few seconds to study the scene in the viewfinder.

Try to imagine the scene as it will appear as a final image rather than the image in the viewfinder. Ask yourself just what it is you want to photograph and what effect you want to achieve.

A panorama, for instance, requires an entirely different approach from a photo of a local church or an informal portrait. In a portrait of a child, the child should be the centre of attention in the final result. This does not mean the child must be right in the centre of the picture- such symmetrical images are often dull and lifeless. The viewer's eyes should be drawn to the child and not distracted by other points of interest within the picture. Backgrounds should be simple and uncluttered.

This is where a good gaze through the viewfinder is so valuable. You tend to concentrate on things that interest you rather than taking in the whole scene. Because you are so absorbed with the child in the foreground, it is easy to miss an unsightly garden shed or the car parked behind, either of which may detract from the final image.

Forgetting this can often lead to unintentionally amusing results. Photographs of cars that appear to have sprouted lampposts or dogs with flowers growing from their heads have been taken by even the most experienced photographers from time to time.

Framing Tip: *When taking town scenes, it is often worth using a dark foreground like an archway to frame the subject*



Adapted from "Creative Approach" The Photo. With thanks