

10 Tips for Great Photos



- 1) **Use a plain background.** A cluttered background distracts while a plain background emphasizes your subject.
- 2) **Use a flash outdoors.** Even outdoors, use the fill flash to improve pictures. On sunny days, it will lighten dark shadows under eyes and nose; on cloudy days it will brighten faces and make them stand out from the background.
- 3) **Move in close.** To eliminate background distractions, move a few steps closer or use the zoom until the subject fills the viewfinder. For small objects, use the digital camera's macro or "flower" mode to get sharp close-ups.
- 4) **Take some vertical pictures.** Many subjects look better in a vertical picture, including buildings and portraits.
- 5) **Lock the focus.** If you're using a digital camera, center the subject, push the shutter button halfway down, reframe your picture (while still holding the button halfway down), then press all the way down to shoot the picture.
- 6) **Move it from the middle.** Imagine a tic-tac-toe grid in your viewfinder. Place the subject at one of the intersections of the lines.
- 7) **Know your flash's range.** For many digital cameras that's only 10 feet: about four steps away. Pictures taken beyond the flash's range will be dark.
- 8) **Watch the light.** Study the effects of light on your subject's face. Avoid overhead sunlight that casts harsh shadows.
- 9) **Be a picture director.** Take an extra minute to add some props, rearrange your subjects or try a different viewpoint.
- 10) **Get down on their level.** Kids and pets do not have to look directly into the camera, the eye level angle itself will create a personal and inviting feeling.