

# Use this 10 Step Checklist to prepare for a Photo Shoot

When I get to a location for some great photography, I go over the settings on my camera for the type of scene and light I might be shooting in. Like a Landscape or Macro location and the type of lighting condition I might be in as well.

1. Packing up for your session:
  - Ensure you have fully charged batteries and an extra battery if possible.
  - Ensure the SD Cards do not have any Images on them, and you have extra SD cards.
2. The first thing I check is my Exposure mode:
  - I may shoot in P (Program), S/TV (Shutter), A/AV (Aperture).
  - I would choose the Shutter to control Speed to Freeze or show Motion in my subject.
  - I would choose the Aperture to control Depth of Field by Blurring the Background and I would choose the Mode for whichever my subject was.
3. The Metering Mode is also a setting I would check depending on the lighting and my subject. I might choose:
  - Matrix/Evaluative for a Landscape
  - Center Weight for Portraits
  - Spot for Macro or Close Up Photography.
4. The ISO is also one of the next settings I would check, and I would make the setting as to the type of lighting I was in.
  - Usually for subjects outside I would use a lower setting
  - For low light situation I would use a higher setting.
5. I also set my shutter Motor Drive from Single or Continuous, as for how many images will be taken as I hold the shutter button down. For example:
  - Continuous for some Action and Wildlife Photography
  - Single for Macro Photography
6. The White Balance is the temperature of light. It's the difference between a golden spectrum of tint in your photo. I would use Daylight, Cloudy or Shade when I would be outside while I may try Tungsten or Fluorescent may be used inside.
7. Always check the Exposure Compensation to make sure it is on 0. Exposure compensation can be used to change exposure for Brighter or Darker exposure depending on the scene. Always reset exposure compensation back to 0 if you do change this setting.
8. Auto/Manual Focus is set on the camera and on the lens. In the manual focus, the focus is controlled manually on the lens.
  - If I am photographing Wildlife I would have it in Auto Focus
  - If I am taking macro photography, I may switch it over to manual Focus.
  - Always set it back to Auto after using manual.
9. Mode Settings are available on many cameras. Mode settings allow defaults for specific scenarios. If you set your camera to Macro, Portrait, Landscape or any other modes you want to make sure you set it back to Program mode or Aperture or Shutter depending on your preference.
10. Flash Setting allow for more light if needed. Ensure sure you have the Flash on or off depending on location and the subject.

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