

# SHARP PHOTO GUIDEBOOK



**COLE'S CLASSROOM**

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## BLURRY PHOTOS?

*One of the things we hear most often is that photographers get SO frustrated when their images aren't sharp. And we understand; it definitely is very frustrating anytime we have to throw away an image that just isn't sharp enough. There are a few reasons why your photos might be turning out a little blurry, but one of the main reasons is because your shutter speed is simply too slow.*



*The first shutter speed here was too slow at 1/100, and resulted in motion blur. So when I increased the speed to 1/250, the image is much sharper.*





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## WHAT SHUTTER SPEED SHOULD YOU USE?

*The faster the shutter is, the more the camera is able to stop motion. But the slower it is, the more blurry your images become whenever there is movement. So what should your shutter speed be, then? Let's start with this formula below.*

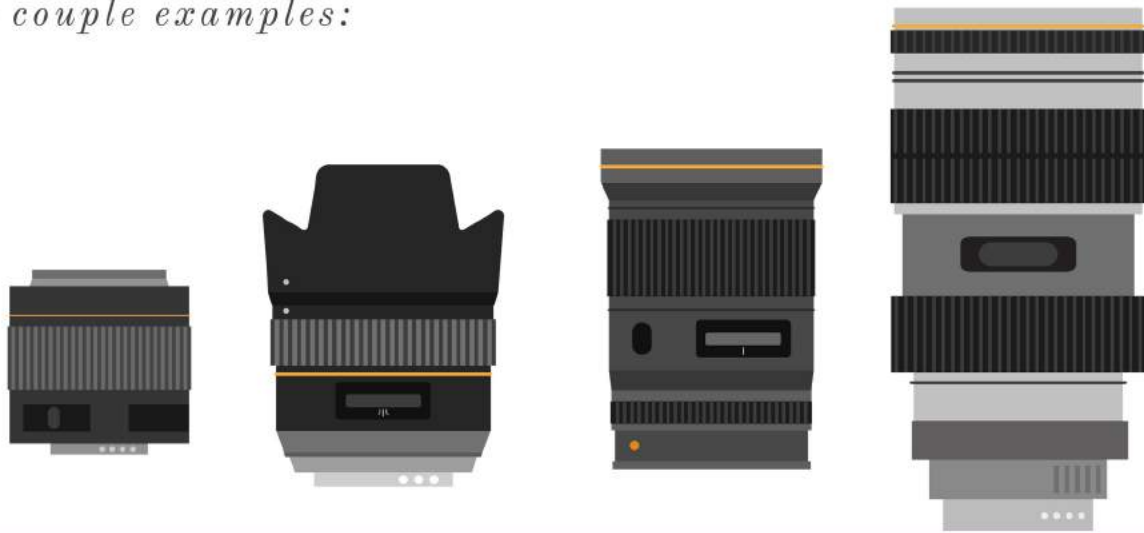
## FOCAL LENGTH FORMULA - FULL FRAME CAMERAS:

*Here's the standard 'formula' in the photography world that tells you the SLOWEST shutter speed you should have when you're holding your camera:*

**MINIMUM SHUTTER SPEED = 1 / YOUR FOCAL LENGTH\***

*So that means that, for example, if I'm shooting with a lens that is 50mm, the slowest I can have my shutter is 1/50th of a second. If I have a lens that is 200mm, then I don't want to have a shutter any slower than 1/200.*

*Here's a chart with a couple examples:*



<b>FOCAL LENGTH:</b>	50MM LENS:	24-70MM LENS:	100MM LENS:	70-200MM LENS:
<b>SHUTTER SPEED:</b>	1/50	1/70	1/100	1/200

\*NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A CROP SENSOR CAMERA, THIS RULE CHANGES TO:

**MINIMUM SHUTTER SPEED = 1 / YOUR FOCAL LENGTH X 1.5**



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## COLE'S CLASSROOM SHUTTER SPEED RULES:

*The focal length formula can be helpful at times, however, this rule is really only for when you're shooting STILL objects. Most of us typically take photos of people - whether it's family portraits or wedding clients - and because we HATE blurry photos so much, we decided to create our own rules for photographing people, just to be sure that we are in the 'safe zone' and don't end up with a lot of movement blur with our images.*



## FIND WHAT WORKS FOR YOU:

*As you get more comfortable and experienced with shooting, you will find what shutter speeds work best for you, too. You may feel comfortable shooting at different speeds than what we are sharing here - and that's ok. But we wanted to share our rules, and what we've found works best.*



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1/1000

## SPORTS/BIKES

When there is a lot of movement in my scene and I want to freeze that motion, I don't usually let my shutter go any slower than 1/1000th of a second. This works well for things like fast sports or kids riding a bike.



1/500

## KIDS RUNNING

A 'safe zone' speed for when kids are moving quickly / running - is 1/500th of a second. Any slower than that and there might be some blur.



1/400

## TODDLERS ON THE MOVE

I want my shutter speed to be nice and quick when I'm following a toddler who is fast-moving. 1/400 ensures that I can get sharp images in this case.



1/250

## PEOPLE WALKING

In this case, I like to keep my shutter speed at 1/250 -- no slower -- or I'll be worried that the images won't be as sharp as I'd like.



1/160

## PEOPLE WHO STAY STILL

The slowest I will go with my shutter is 1/160th of a second when I'm working with people. If it gets slower than that, I'm just too worried about movement and blur. So this works great for people or portraits who aren't doing a lot of moving.



1/125

## STILL OBJECTS

When I'm working with something that isn't moving at all, I feel comfortable shooting with a shutter as slow as 1/125. Yes, I CAN go slower if needed - by making sure I remain very still as I shoot. However this is just my 'safe zone' speed.



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## CHECK YOUR SHUTTER!

*Now these aren't hard & fast rules - and sometimes it will change based on the situation, but having a guideline like this is really helpful, and will remind you to pay attention, and notice when your shutter is too slow.*

*So the next time you feel that your images just aren't as sharp as you'd like, check your shutter speed and see if you might be able to get a more clear & sharp image, simply by making that shutter a bit faster.*



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