

Photography Tips for You : by Judy Reisman - Simple Ways to Make Your Photos Better.

1. The best way to become a better photographer is to slow down!
2. Hold the camera steady, press and release the shutter gently.
3. Use a tripod if possible, which frees up your brain, as well as your hands, but compose with the camera off the tripod so that your creativity is not constrained.
4. Check your depth of field; use wide apertures for selective focus and small apertures for great depth of field. If your camera has a depth-of-field preview button, learn to use it.
5. Make sure that the shutter speed is either fast enough to freeze subject movement or slow enough to show blur, depending on the effect you want.
6. Frame, don't aim. Don't use the viewfinder like a gun sight and always put the main subject in the cross hairs. Try placing it off-center and experiment with the horizon line.
7. Get close; fill the frame.
8. Don't always take the entire subject; let a part of it suggest the whole - and engage the viewer in imagining the rest.
9. Shoot from low and high angles.
10. Watch for distractions in foregrounds and backgrounds.
11. Use fill-flash outdoors for portraits to lessen harsh shadows.
12. Keep verticals vertical, unless you want to deliberately skew the angle for greater interest.
13. Avoid shooting into the sun.
14. Go out at dusk and dawn.
15. Use graduated filters when shooting sunrise and sunset.
16. Remember the limitations of your in-camera meter; if you don't want a light or dark subject to be rendered a medium gray tone, you must compensate.
17. When in doubt about exposure, bracket.
18. Analyze the light. How soft/hard is it? What direction is it coming from? Will the film/digital sensor record harsh shadows that the eye doesn't see? Is the light too contrasty for the film? What color is the light, and do you want to change how it is recorded? Is there sufficient light to hand-hold the camera without camera shake?
19. First learn the "rules" and then don't be afraid to break them.
20. Don't always look for the trophy subject at the end of the rainbow; it might well be in your backyard.
21. Go back time and time again to special places so that you get to know them intimately and can get beyond the obvious with your photos.
22. Develop self-assignments to challenge yourself and focus your photography.
23. Embrace your failures, for they are your best teachers.
24. Throw away the bad images.
25. ALWAYS HAVE THE CAMERA HANDY AND LOADED, READY TO GO. ALWAYS CARRY EXTRA BATTERIES AND FILM/MEMORY CARDS.