

# Making good pictures with your mobile phone

Tips on COMPOSITION and ANGLES to make your pictures stand out

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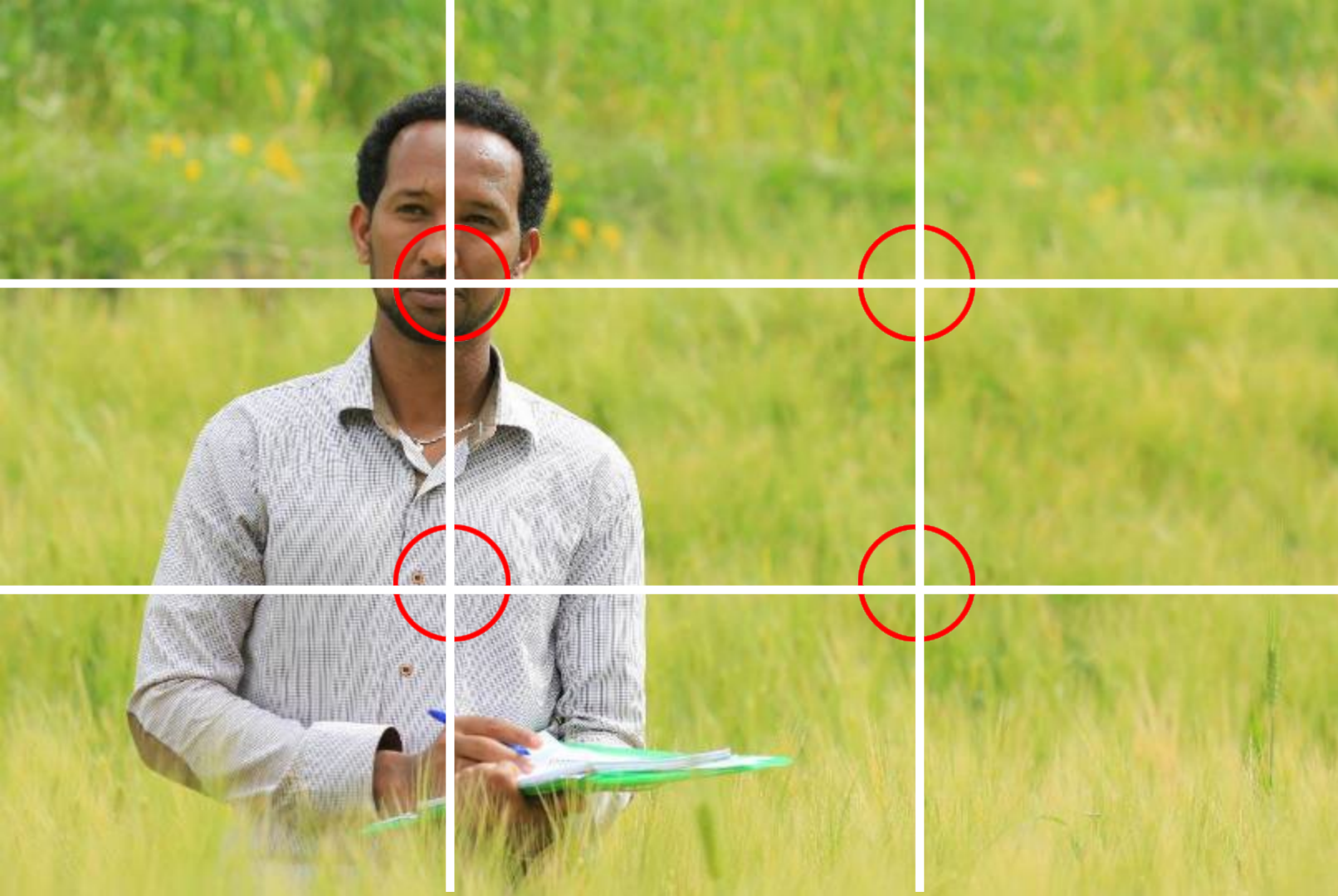


# Why are pictures so important?

- **'A good picture is your most powerful message'**
  - Pictures visualise **what** we do and **how** we do it
  - People nowadays read less & view more (pictures & movies)
  - Social media messages, adverts, posters with good pictures have more impact
- Using your own pictures avoids copyright problems of using someone else's picture in your communication.

Tricks that help : **COMPOSITION**

# Rule of Thirds







**Lead  
room**

**Empty  
space**



# Lines Curves





**Depth  
of  
Field  
(DOF)**



**Depth  
of  
Field  
(DOF)**





# Rule of Odds



**Frame**





# Fill the Frame





**Close  
up**

# Over shoulder





# Symmetry





Tricks that help : **ANGLES**

# ANGLES

**empowering**

low angle –  
frog perspective



**neutral**

straight



**risks de-  
powering**

high angle –  
bird's eye view

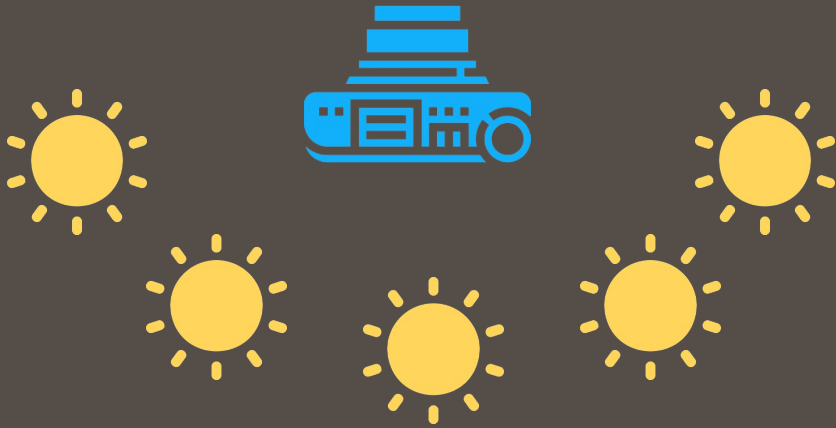


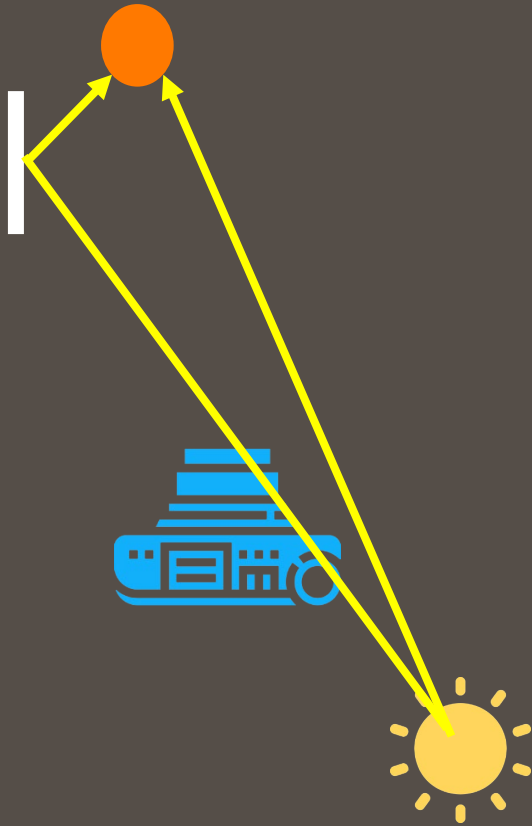
Tricks that help : **LIGHTNING**





- Daylight
- Early morning – late afternoon
- If possible in shade
- Sun in back – from side
- If hard shadows - reflector





- Daylight
- Early morning – late afternoon
- Sun in back – from side
- If possible in shade
- If hard shadows – paper reflector

Tricks that help : **CONTEXT**

# Provide context

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- Relative size
- Crops
- Tools
- Writing
- Landscape



Tricks that help : **PLAN AHEAD**

# Be prepared: AEIOU observation framework



**Activities**

learning  
building  
trashing  
farming  
delivering  
providing



**Environments**

farm  
market  
work floor  
'problem' area  
'success' area



**Interactions**

buying  
selling  
brokering  
teaching  
gatherings



**Objects**

raw materials  
tools  
signs  
mobile phones  
money



**Users**

producers  
customers  
traders  
employees  
women/men

# PLAN your SHOTLIST

## AEIOU

- **A**ctivities
- **E**nvironments
- **I**nteractions
- **O**bjects
- **U**sers (people)

## composition

- rule of thirds
- lines / curves
- frame
- shallow depth of field / focus
- over shoulder shot
- fill the frame
- symmetry

## angles

- low
- straight
- high

# Prepare a shotlist

## SHOTLIST

What:

Where:

When:

Photographer:

Sketch composition of what you want in photo in the frames, and describe in few words under frame



Description: .....

.....



Description: .....

.....



Description: .....

.....



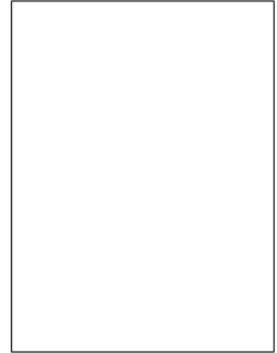
Description: .....

.....



Description: .....

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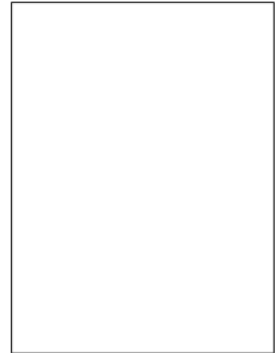
Description: .....

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Description: .....

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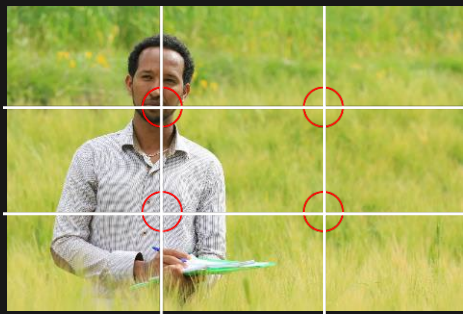
Description: .....

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# Summary Shot composition

thirds



Apollo Habtamu

lead



C Shubert

# Angles

frog



Neil Palmer

DOF symmetry



Neil Palmer

close-up



Neil Palmer

eye



Neil Palmer

lines



Francesco Fiondella

over shoulder



Mirjam Schaap

bird



Neil Palmer

# MOBILE PHONE SETTINGS

# TIPS for mobile phone settings and handling

## SETTINGS:

- **Grid**
- **Highest quality**
- **2x3**
- **Flash: off**
- **HDR: auto**
- **Use RAW** (when possible)
- **CLEAN lens**
- **AVOID UNSHARP:**
  - keep wit 2 HANDS
- **SUN in YOUR back – light on face**
- **ZOOM with FEET (walk over)**
- **MORE IS BETTER - BURST**
- **USE + BREAK rules**
- **try different FRAMES & ANGLES**
- **DIRECT PEOPLE**



## FOCUS:

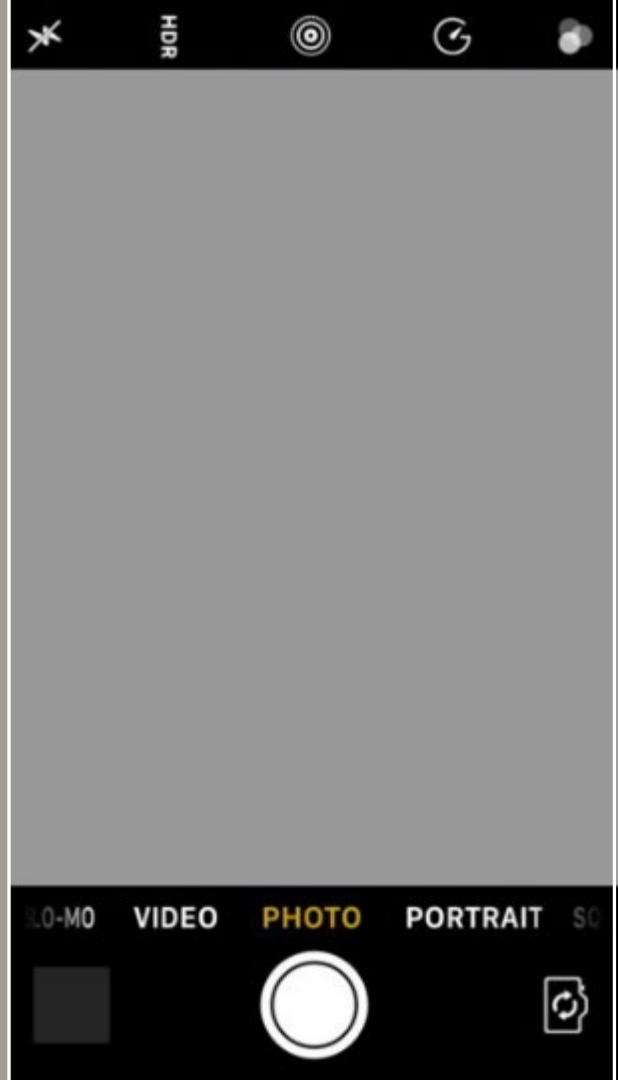
- tap on area to focus
- tap + hold some time to set AE/AF lock to take multiple photos of same scene
- for sharp focus far away objects: zoom in, set AE/AF lock, zoom out, take picture

## EXPOSURE:

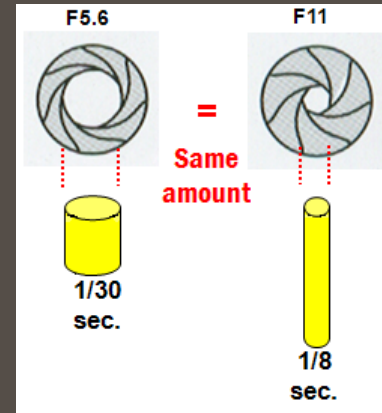
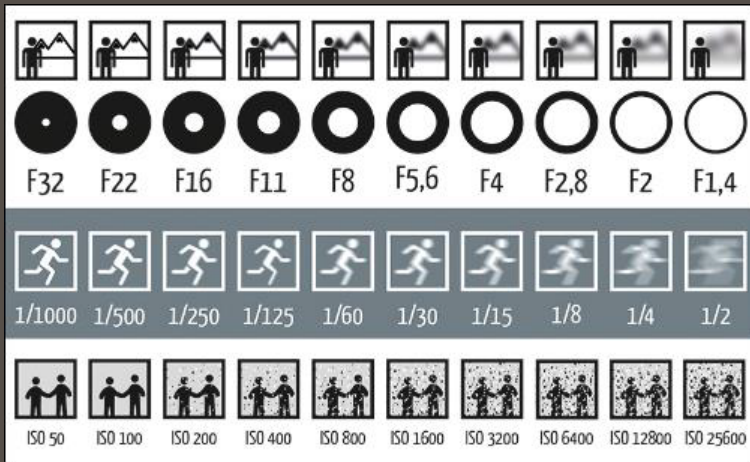
- after tapping to focus adjust manually: sliding up-down

## DEPTH of FIELD

- get close to object foreground, compose, tap to focus, click
- use portrait mode if available







If it's too bright:

- increase your shutter speed
- pick a bigger F/stop
- decrease your ISO

If it's too dark:

- decrease your shutter speed
- pick a smaller F/stop
- increase your ISO

need sharper images?

- increase your shutter speed
- shutter speed > focal length

depth of field

- small F/stop = shallow
- big F/stop = depth

# Enjoy making pictures that work!

Also read the practical field guide



Making good pictures with your mobile phone. Mirjam Schaap, Wageningen University and Research.

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