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Photography Basics

I love photography but always need to remember the terms and details. That is so surprising since I am a super technical person. So, I need to refresh myself on this subject occasionally.

- Aperture sets the depth of field
- Shutter Speed sets motion blur
- ISO sets the gain of the sensor

Remember this fantastic quote:

The best camera is the one with you!



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A Simple But Awesome Introduction to Basics

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ISO – simply controls brightness of a photo

ISO is a simple camera setting that controls the brightness of a photo. A higher ISO number makes the image brighter, which helps when taking pictures in dark environments. It also lets you adjust other settings more easily, like aperture and shutter speed.

However, increasing the ISO too much causes grain or "noise" in the photo, making it less transparent. To avoid this, raise the ISO only when you cannot brighten the photo with shutter speed or aperture settings. For instance, a slower shutter speed would make the image blurry. In short, use ISO wisely to balance brightness, graininess, and other settings for the best photo quality.



Many people wrongly believe ISO is camera sensor sensitivity. Though it might help to think of ISO this way, it needs to be more accurate.

Digital sensors have only one sensitivity, regardless of the ISO. Instead, ISO is like a guide telling your camera how bright to make the photo based on the exposure.

ISO isn't part of exposure. Shutter Speed and Aperture physically capture more light to brighten your photo. ISO doesn't do that; it just brightens the captured photo. Photographers don't see ISO as an exposure component because it doesn't affect how much light enters the camera.

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