

gun for power.

flash-

If you'd also like to include a person in front of the sunrise or sunset, just popup your built-in flash to illuminate them. If the person is too dark, either increase your flash compensation setting (see your manual) or move a little closer to them. Alternatively, use an external flash gun for more power.

**Expert tip**

1: Switch your camera to Program mode by turning the mode dial to 'P'.  
 2: Press the exposure compensation button. This is normally labeled with a plus and minus symbol – check your manual for details.  
 3: Set the compensation to a negative value to deliberately underexpose the shot – a setting of -1 will be twice as dark as normal and is a good starting point. Some DSLRs require that the compensation button be held as you make this adjustment.  
 4: If the result is not dark enough, choose a bigger number, like -1.5 or even -2. If the result is too dark, choose a smaller number like -0.5 or -0.3. It's all about experimenting.  
 5: After taking your photo, set the compensation back to zero or all your photos will be darker than normal. Finally if desired, set the mode dial back to Auto.

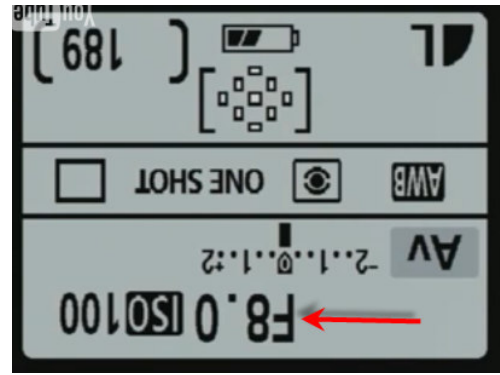
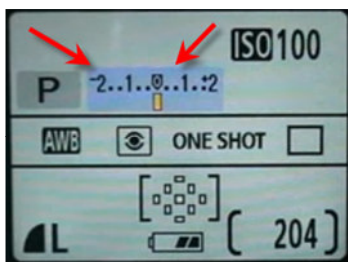
**How to make your photos darker**

**How to make your photos brighter**

- 1: Switch your camera to Program mode by turning the mode dial to 'P'.
- 2: Press the exposure compensation button. This is normally labeled with a plus and minus symbol – check your manual for details.
- 3: Set the compensation to a positive value to deliberately overexpose the shot – a setting of +1 will be twice as bright as normal and a good starting point. Some DSLRs require that the compensation button be held as you make this adjustment.
- 4: If the result isn't bright enough, choose a bigger number, like +1.5 or even +2. If the result is too bright, choose a smaller number like +0.5 or +0.3. It's all about experimenting.
- 5: After taking your photo, set the compensation back to zero or all your photos will be brighter than normal. Finally if desired, set the mode dial back to Auto.

**Watch out!**

Don't assume the screen on the back of your DSLR is always giving an accurate representation of your photo. Depending on the screen's brightness settings and the surrounding light, you may find your photos look darker or lighter than they actually are. Reading the histogram can reveal if your photo is properly exposed – see forthcoming workshop – but to play safe, simply take two photos. One with exposure compensation and one without just to make sure.



1: Switch your camera to Aperture Priority mode by turning the mode dial to 'Av'.  
 2: Zoom your lens out to its wide angle setting – this will help maximize the amount in focus.  
 3: Choose a larger f-number to increase the range of distances in sharp focus. Try f16 as a starter.  
 4: Check your photo. If there's still not enough in focus, try increasing the f-number to, say, f22.  
 5: After taking your photo, remember to set the mode dial back to Auto or Program mode.

**Watch out!**

As you increase the f-number, less light gets into your camera, which in turn means you'll need a much slower exposure to compensate. Your camera works this out for you in Aperture Priority mode, but you'll still need to watch out for camera shake. So always hold your camera very steady when using big f-numbers.

**How to take landscapes with lots in focus**

**How to take better sunset and sunrise photos**

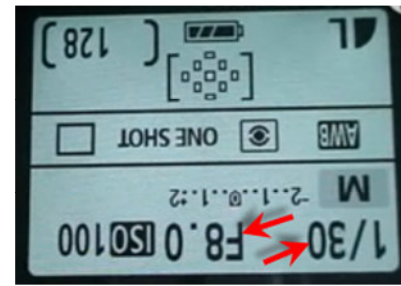
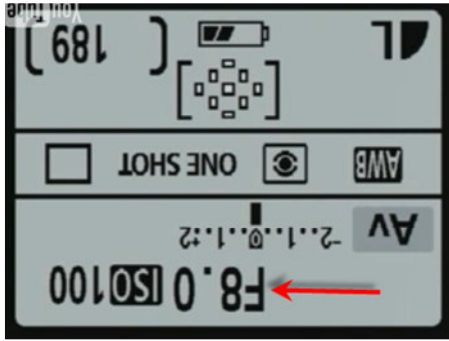
- 1: Switch your camera to Program mode by turning the mode dial to 'P'.
- 2: Press the exposure compensation button. This is normally labeled with a plus and minus symbol – check your manual for details.
- 3: Set the compensation to a negative value to deliberately underexpose the shot – a setting of -1 is a good starting point. Some DSLRs require that the compensation button be held as you make this adjustment.
- 4: If the result is still too bright, choose a bigger number, like -1.5 or even -2. If the result is too dark, choose a smaller number like -0.5 or -0.3.
- 5: After taking your photo, set the compensation back to zero or all your photos will be darker than normal. Finally if desired, set the mode dial back to Auto.

**Expert tip**

If you'd also like to include a person in front of the sunrise or sunset, just popup your built-in flash to illuminate them. If the person is too dark, either increase your flash compensation setting (see your manual) or move a little closer to them. Alternatively, use an external flashgun for more power.

**How to take portraits with a 'fill-in' flash**

- 1: Switch your camera to Program mode by turning the mode dial to 'P'.
- 2: Popup your built-in flash. On some models you'll press a button labeled with a lightning symbol, while on others you'll manually lift the flash open. Check your manual.
- 3: Simply take the photo as before. Your camera will balance the light from the flash and the background.
- 4: If the person is now too bright, either set your flash compensation settings to a negative value, or simply stand back a little.
- 5: After taking your photo, push the flash back down for protection and if desired, set the mode dial back to Auto mode.



Always temporarily switch off any anti-shake or image stabilization systems when using a tripod. If the camera is perfectly steady these systems can actually introduce wobbling as they attempt to counteract something which isn't there.

Some cameras will also have difficulty focusing in dark conditions, so if yours is having problems, switch the lens to manual and focus on the lights. If they are distant, focus the lens to infinity.

**Watch out!**

- 1: Switch your camera to Manual mode by turning the mode dial to 'M'.
- 2: Choose the smallest f-number available and a relatively long shutter speed to record the lights. One second is a good starting point and most cameras indicate seconds using double quotes, so look for "1".
- 3: Keep your camera very steady. Preferably use a tripod or a Gorilla-pod. Use the self-timer to avoid wobbling the camera as you press the button.
- 4: Check your photo. If the lights aren't bright enough, try a slower shutter speed. If the lights are too bright, try a quicker shutter speed.
- 5: After taking your photo, remember to set the mode dial back to Auto or Program mode.

**Night photography**

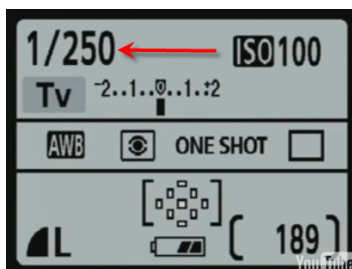
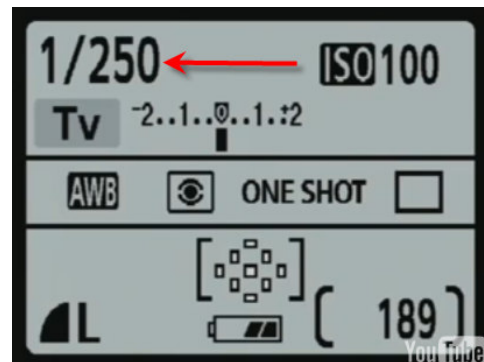
- 1: Switch your camera to Manual mode by turning the mode dial to 'M'.

**How to blur action shots**

- 1: Switch your camera to Shutter Priority mode by turning the mode dial to 'Tv'.
- 2: Choose a slower shutter speed which will blur the action. 1/60 is a good starting point.
- 3: Follow the subject through the viewfinder as you take the picture. Make sure you keep moving the camera as you press the button.
- 4: If the background isn't sufficiently blurred, choose a slower shutter, such as 1/30 or 1/15. If the action is too blurred, choose a faster shutter like 1/125.
- 5: After taking your photo, remember to set the mode dial back to Auto or Program (P) mode.

**Watch Out!**

1: If your camera or lens has anti-shake facilities, they might get confused by the panning motion. Some models have a special setting for panning. Other, newer models, can automatically detect panning. Check your manual, but if yours has neither, it's best to switch the anti-shake off while taking these kind of photos.



**Blurring water for a creative effect**

- 1: Switch your camera to Shutter Priority mode by turning the mode dial to 'Tv'.
- 2: Choose a slower than normal shutter speed to blur the water. 1/30 is a good starting point.
- 3: Check your photo. If the water isn't blurred enough, choose a slower shutter speed like 1/15 or 1/8. Note you may need a tripod or an anti-shake system to avoid camera shake – see below.
- 4: In shutter priority, your camera will work out the aperture setting for you. If the f-number starts flashing though, it means it can't balance the shot. In this example, the exposure may be too long, so if your sensitivity (ISO) is already at the lowest number, you'll have to choose a slightly quicker shutter speed until the f-number stops flashing.
- 5: After taking your photo, remember to set the mode dial back to Auto or Program mode.

**Watch out!**

As you reduce the shutter speed, you become more susceptible to camera shake. People vary, but if you're using a kit lens zoomed-out to wide angle without any kind of anti-shake, the slowest handheld exposure you'll normally get away with is about 1/30. If you naturally shake, you may need at least 1/60, but if you're very steady, then you may be ok at 1/15. If you zoom-in at all, you'll need faster exposures to compensate for the greater magnification.

**Equipment tip**

- 1: Switch your camera to Aperture Priority mode by turning the mode dial to 'Av'.
- 2: Stand back a little and zoom-in your lens – this will accentuate the effect.
- 3: Choose the smallest f-number that's available. If you're using a kit lens and you're zoomed-in, this will normally be around f5.6.
- 4: To further accentuate the effect, increase the distance between the subject and the background. So keep the person relatively close to you for a head and shoulders shot, and position them against distant background.
- 5: After taking your photo, remember to set the mode dial back to Auto or Program mode.

**How to take portraits with blurred backgrounds**

If you really like the blurred background effect you should consider