

10 Tips for Great Photos

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1. **Use a plain background.** Cluttered backgrounds distract. Plain backgrounds emphasize your focus and subject.
2. **Use a flash outdoors.** Even outdoors a fill flash can improve pictures. On sunny days, it lightens dark shadows under eyes and noses; on cloudy days it brightens faces and make them stand out from the background.
3. **Move in close.** To eliminate background distractions, move a few steps closer (or zoom in) until the subject fills the viewfinder. For small objects, use your camera's macro mode to get sharp close-ups.
4. **Take some vertical pictures.** Many subjects look better in a vertical picture, including buildings and portraits.
5. **Blur the background.** Use the 'selective focus' open to highlight your subject while blurring out the background.
6. **Move it from the middle.** Imagine a tic-tac-toe grid in your viewfinder. Place the subject at one of the intersections of the lines.
7. **Know your flash's range.** For many phones that's only 10 feet: or about 4 steps away. Pictures taken beyond the flash's range will be dark.
8. **Watch the light.** Study the effects of light on your subject's face. Avoid overhead sunlight that casts harsh shadows.
9. **Be a picture director.** Take an extra minute to add some props, rearrange your subjects, or sample different angles or viewpoints.
10. **Get down on their level.** Kids and pets do not have to look directly into the camera. An eye level angle will create a personal and inviting feeling.

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