

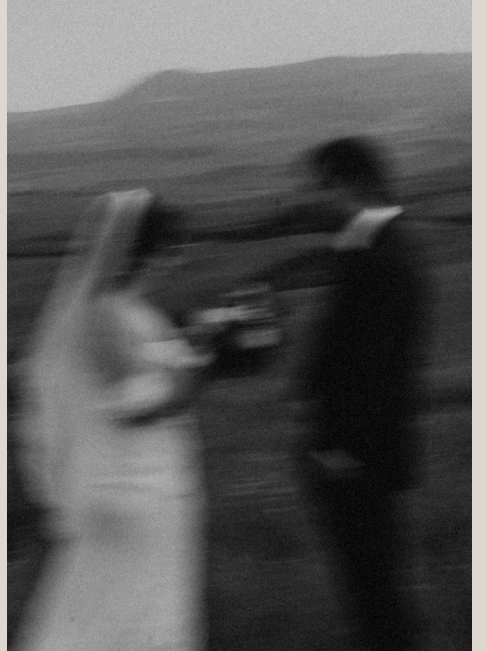
Creative Photography Starter Pack



by Roberta Corso



Photography should be a passion
before it becomes a profession



PHOTOGRAPHY IS ART.

Welcome!

If you're just getting started with photography and feel overwhelmed by all the settings, lenses, and gear talk — you're not alone.

This guide is here to help you slow down and fall in love with the art of photography first. Not as a business. Not as a pressure. But as something creative, expressive, and deeply human.

BEFORE YOU THINK ABOUT ISO, SHUTTER SPEED,
OR BUYING A FANCY CAMERA



LET'S PAUSE.

Photography is first and foremost a form of art. It's about learning to see — the light on someone's face, the emotion in a gesture, the beauty in everyday moments.

When I first picked up a camera, I didn't know anything about ISO or aperture. I didn't even know how to shoot in manual mode. But I was obsessed with moments — light falling through a window, the way two people looked at each other, the magic of quiet places.

That obsession — that curiosity — is where photography begins.

So if you're just starting out, don't get stuck in the technical rabbit hole. Your first job isn't to master the settings — it's to train your eye. To build your voice. To fall in love with the act of noticing.

Here's how I recommend you start:



1. Start with what you have

Use your phone. An old camera. Whatever is in your hands — that's enough. The gear doesn't make the photographer.

2. Learn to see the light

Photography literally means "writing with light."

Look at how light changes throughout the day. Soft and warm in the morning. Harsh and direct at noon. Moody at dusk.

Train yourself to notice shadows. Backlight. Glow. Reflection.





3. Photograph people you know

Ask your friends, your partner, or your family to model for you. Practice giving directions. Try natural posing prompts like:

- “Walk toward me slowly.”
- “Foreheads together.”
- “Hold hands and spin around.”
- “Look at each other and laugh.”

This helps you build confidence, and it teaches you how to create comfort in front of the lens — which is just as important as knowing your settings.

Allow yourself to make mistakes!



4. Repeat, repeat, repeat

Photography is a craft. The more you shoot, the more you see.

Don't wait for perfect conditions or the right equipment. Just start — and keep going.

So yes, the technical stuff matters. But it's not where your journey begins.

Your journey begins with light, curiosity, and practice.

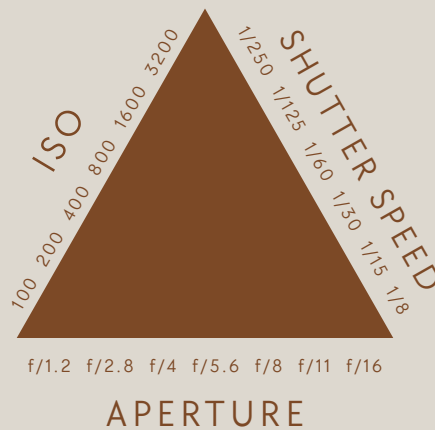
Once you've connected with the art of photography — then it's time to learn the tools.

Let's dive in -



THE EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

(MADE SIMPLE)



Every time you take a photo, you're letting light into your camera.

To control that light, your camera uses three settings that work together — like a triangle.

This is called the **Exposure Triangle**, and it's made up of:

- **ISO** (how sensitive your camera is to light)
- **Shutter Speed** (how long your camera's "eye" stays open)
- **Aperture** (how wide the lens opens to let light in)

Think of these three as a balancing act. If you change one, you often need to adjust the others to keep the image properly lit.

Let's break them down in a way that actually makes sense.

1. ISO – LIGHT SENSITIVITY

ISO tells your camera how sensitive it should be to light.

- Low ISO (100–200)
Best for bright daylight
Very clear, sharp, high-quality images
- High ISO (800–3200+)
Useful in dark or indoor spaces
But adds grain, or “noise” – your photo might look fuzzy or soft

What happens if you get it wrong?

Too high = grainy photo that’s hard to fix in editing

Too low = your photo might be way too dark

📷 Beginner Tip:

Start with ISO 100 outside. Raise it only when the light isn’t enough.



2. SHUTTER SPEED – FREEZING OR SHOWING MOTION

Shutter speed is how fast your camera takes the photo – like blinking your eyes.

- Fast shutter (1/500, 1/1000, etc.)
Freezes motion (great for kids, dancing, sports)
But lets in less light – so you may need more ISO or a wider aperture
- Slow shutter (1/60, 1/30, etc.)
Blurs motion (good for waterfalls, light trails, dreamy effects)
But the photo can be shaky or blurry – especially if your hands move

What happens if you get it wrong?

Too slow = blurry, shaky photo

Too fast = photo might be too dark if there isn't enough light

📷 Beginner Tip:

Never go slower than 1/125 if you're hand-holding your camera to capture a photo without blur. Use a tripod for slower speeds.



3. APERTURE – DEPTH OF FIELD (HOW MUCH IS IN FOCUS)

Aperture controls how wide the lens opens when taking a photo. It affects both light and how much of the photo is in focus.



- Low f-number (f/1.8, f/2.0)
Wide opening → more light
Blurry background → perfect for portraits
- High f-number (f/8, f/11)
Narrow opening → less light
Everything in focus → good for groups or landscapes

What happens if you get it wrong?

Too wide (f/1.8) = blurry background is nice, but you might miss focus if you're not careful

Too narrow (f/11) = sharp image, but you might need lots of light or slow shutter

📷 Beginner Tip:

Want that soft, creamy background? Try f/2.0–f/2.8.

Shooting a couple or a full scene? Go f/5.6 or higher.



Final Thoughts

If you've made it this far, you're already doing the most important thing: you're learning, exploring, and showing up for your creativity.

Photography can feel overwhelming at first — with all the numbers, settings, and gear talk. But don't forget:

You don't need to be technical to be powerful.

You don't need expensive gear to make something beautiful.

You just need your eyes, your heart, and a willingness to press the shutter.


Start messy. Start curious. Start with love for the process — and let your skills grow from there.





We were created to create.

Keep creating!

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