PHOTO
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Camera Modes
EXPLAINED



Auto Mode

Most people use this mode when they first get their camera. Auto mode tells your camera to use it's best judgement to select shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, focus and flash to take the best shot that it can.



Portrait Mode

This mode will automatically select a large aperture (small number) which helps to throw your background out of focus, ensuring your subject is the main thing in focus



Landscape Mode

A smaller aperture (larger f number) is set by the camera to ensure as much of the scene you're photographing will be in focus

At times your camera might set a slower shutter speed in this mode so you might want to consider using a tripod to keep your camera steady.



Macro/Close Up Mode

Macro mode lets you move your nearer into your subject to take a close up picture. It's great for shooting flowers, insects or other small objects.

A tripod is also useful in Macro mode as you may be working with slower shutter speeds when blocking the light, as you are so close to the subject.



Sports Mode

Ideal for photographing any moving objects including people playing sports, pets, cars, wildlife etc. Sports mode attempts to freeze the action by increasing the shutter speed.

When photographing fast moving subjects, you can also increase your chances of capturing them with panning of your camera along with the subject

Find out more at:
WWW.THEPHOTOACADEMYNI.CO.UK

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Night Portrait

Night mode is for shooting in low light situations and sets your camera to use a longer shutter speed to help capture details of the background but it also fires off a flash to illuminate the foreground (and subject).

You may want to use a tripod, however it's also fun to take shots with this handheld to purposely blur your backgrounds



No Flash Mode

This mode ensures that the camera's flash doesn't fire. Useful for indoors images in museums e.g. or candid photography where don't want to be obvious when taking the photo



Scene Mode

Available on certain makes of camera - essentially filters / effects are applied by the camera when taking the shot.

E.g. Miniature effect, Candlelight, Dusk, High Key, Low Key etc.



Program Mode

Program mode is similar to Auto but gives you a little more control over some other features including flash, white balance, ISO, exposure compensation etc. This varies from model to model.

The camera still decides what your Aperture & Shutter Speed will be but you can decide on the ISO.



Bulb Mode

This mode allows you to set the shutter speed for any duration. Longer than the normal range within manual or shutter priority mode. Normally 30 seconds is the longest option within the other modes.

In Bulb mode, the shutter stays open as long as the shutter button is pressed down or kept open using a remote shutter release.

Find out more at:

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Aperture Priority Mode - A or AV

This mode allows you to choose the aperture and the camera sets your shutter speed. You can set the ISO manually or set it to AUTO. The camera ensures that you have a well balanced exposure.

Aperture priority mode is useful when you're looking to control the depth of field in a shot, usually where the subject is a stationary object and the shutter speed isn't of as much importance.

Shutter Priority Mode - S or TV

This mode allows you to control the camera's shutter speed and the camera works out the aperture value for you.

When photographing moving subjects (like sports images) you might want to choose a fast shutter speed to freeze the action. If you want to capture movement as a blurred, e.g. a waterfall or tide appearing misty, then choose a slow shutter speed.

Manual Mode

In this mode you have full control over your camera and need to think about all settings including shutter speed, aperture, ISO, white balance, flash etc.

It gives you the flexibility to set your shots up as you wish but you do need to have some idea of what you're doing in manual mode. It just takes practice.



Creative Auto (Canon)

You can adjust different settings in this mode - adjust the background blur, apply filters, adjust the 'ambiance' (Soft/Vivid/Monochrome etc) and change the shooting driver mode (single, continuous, timer etc)

You can also select the flash setting (on, off or Auto)

Video Mode

In this mode, you can shoot video with your camera. Normally the live view will appear on the LCD screen, allowing you to make adjustments such as brightness etc.

Custom Mode C1 / C2 / C3

This mode allows you to save frequently used settings for quick access when in a hurry. It's like having a favourites menu e.g. you shoot a lot of sports during the day, save a faster shutter speed with lower ISO and appropriate aperture setting.