

Tips on Taking Better Photos

By David Bly

1. Keep it steady. Main cause of blurry photos is camera shake. The other cause is poor focus. Both are more likely to happen in low-light situations.
2. Fill the frame. Get closer to your subject or zoom in. A reasonable amount of space around your subject is good, but the subject should still fill the majority of the photo.
3. Watch for clutter. Use a simple, clean background, as neutral as possible. Watch for light poles sticking out of people's heads and branches coming out of their ears.
4. Look to the light. In strong sunlight, keep the sun over your shoulder, not at your back. Watch for shadows on faces. Best people photos are often taken in open shade or in the light of a window.
5. Compose your photo. See where the lines go. Learn the Rule of Thirds. Look for textures and repeated patterns.
Here's a great online article about composition: <http://bit.ly/1ccwMne>
6. Learn how to adjust the exposure (lighter and darker) on your camera.
7. Shoot lots, then study what you shoot. Learn what works and what doesn't. Experiment. Be thoughtful.

Don't be afraid to break these rules, but know why you're breaking them.