

# TOP 5 CAMERA CONTROLS

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# INTRODUCTION: **EXPOSURE**

Exposure = Brightness of a picture

**Too Dark**  
Under-exposed

**Just Right**  
Correct exposure

**Too Bright**  
Over-exposed



*Camera adjusts exposure automatically  
in all modes except Manual (M)*

*But you may often want to adjust some of the settings which control the exposure.*



# INTRODUCTION: EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

Exposure is controlled by 3 variable elements:

## APERTURE

*Variable size*

How much light reaches the sensor



## SHUTTER

*Variable opening time (Speed)*

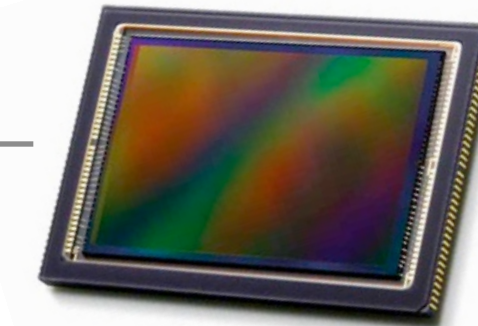
For how long the sensor "sees" the scene



## SENSOR

*Variable sensitivity (ISO)*

How much light sensor needs to register the picture





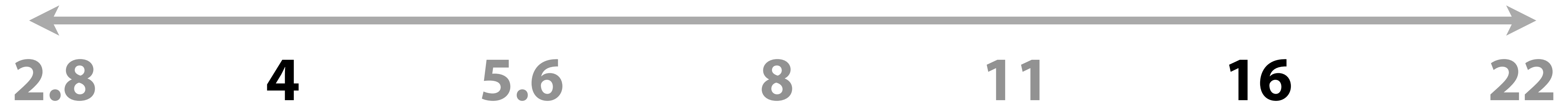
# 1. APERTURE



**Large**  
Brighter



**Small**  
Darker



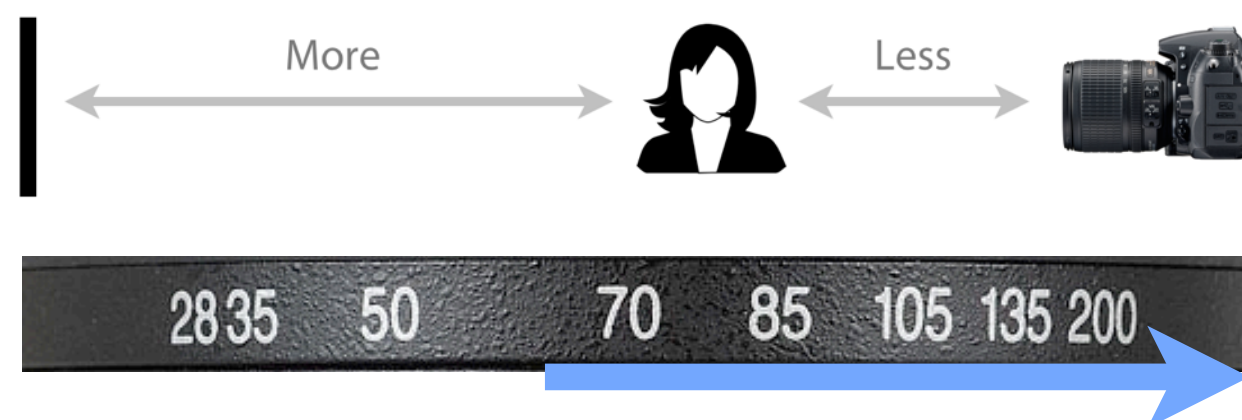
**Blur background**



**Keep everything sharp**



WHY CHANGE



**People**  
**Animals**

**WHEN**

**Landscapes**  
**Architecture**



# 2. SHUTTER SPEED

**Long**

Brighter

**Short**

Darker



**5<sub>s</sub>**

**1/20<sub>s</sub>**

**1/100<sub>s</sub>**

**1/500<sub>s</sub>**

**1/4000<sub>s</sub>**

**Night**

**Blur Action**

**Standard**

**Telephoto Lens**

**Freeze Action**



**Night  
Blur Water**

**Fast-Moving Objects**

**Stationary Objects**

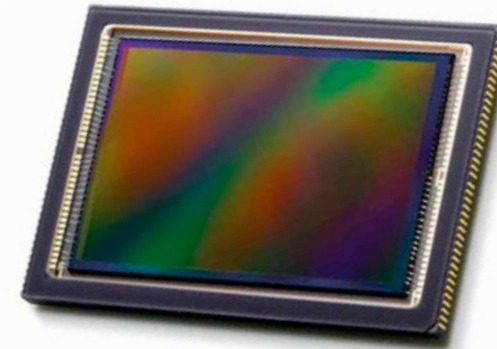
**Fast-Moving Objects**



### 3. ISO (Sensor Sensitivity)

**Low**  
Brighter

**High**  
Darker



**In Bright Daylight**



**WHY CHANGE**

*Increase sensor sensitivity  
in darker places*

**In Darker Places**



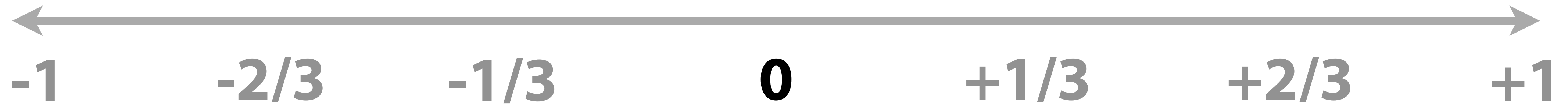
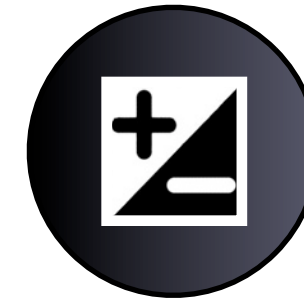
**Outdoors on Sunny Day**

**WHEN**

**Covered Areas  
Cloudy Day  
Indoors**



# 4. EXPOSURE COMPENSATION



**Dominant Dark**



**Standard**

## WHY CHANGE

*With a lot of dark or white in the scene,  
camera metering can get fooled  
and either over- or under-expose*

**Dominant White**



**Dominant Dark**

**WHEN**

**Dominant White**

# 5. WHITE BALANCE

WB

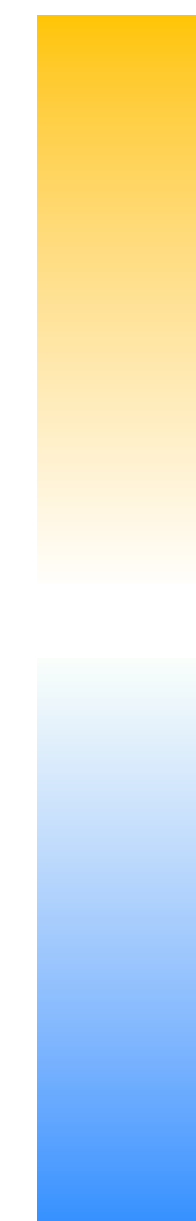


AUTO



K

**Standard**  
approx. 80% of time



10,000

5,000

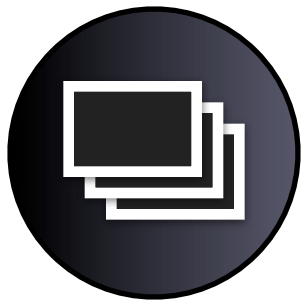
2,500

**Dominant Blue / Yellow**  
**Wrong Colours**



# BONUS: CONTINUOUS SHOOTING

## Continuous Shooting



OR

S C<sub>L</sub> C<sub>H</sub>

## Single Shot





# NIKON

*Typical controls. This may vary depending on the model*

## Dedicated Buttons



+



## On Screen



+





# CANON

*Typical controls. This may vary depending on the model*

## Dedicated Buttons

Aperture  
Shutter



+



## On Screen



+





# BENEFITS OF LEAVING AUTO MODE

**A / Av**

- You decide to **blur the background** or **keep everything sharp**

**S / Tv**

- **Sharp** pictures of **action** / with telephoto lens



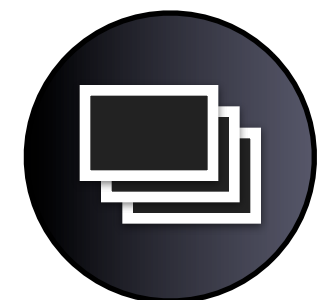
- **Sharp** pictures in **low light**



- **Right brightness** - avoid too bright / too dark pictures

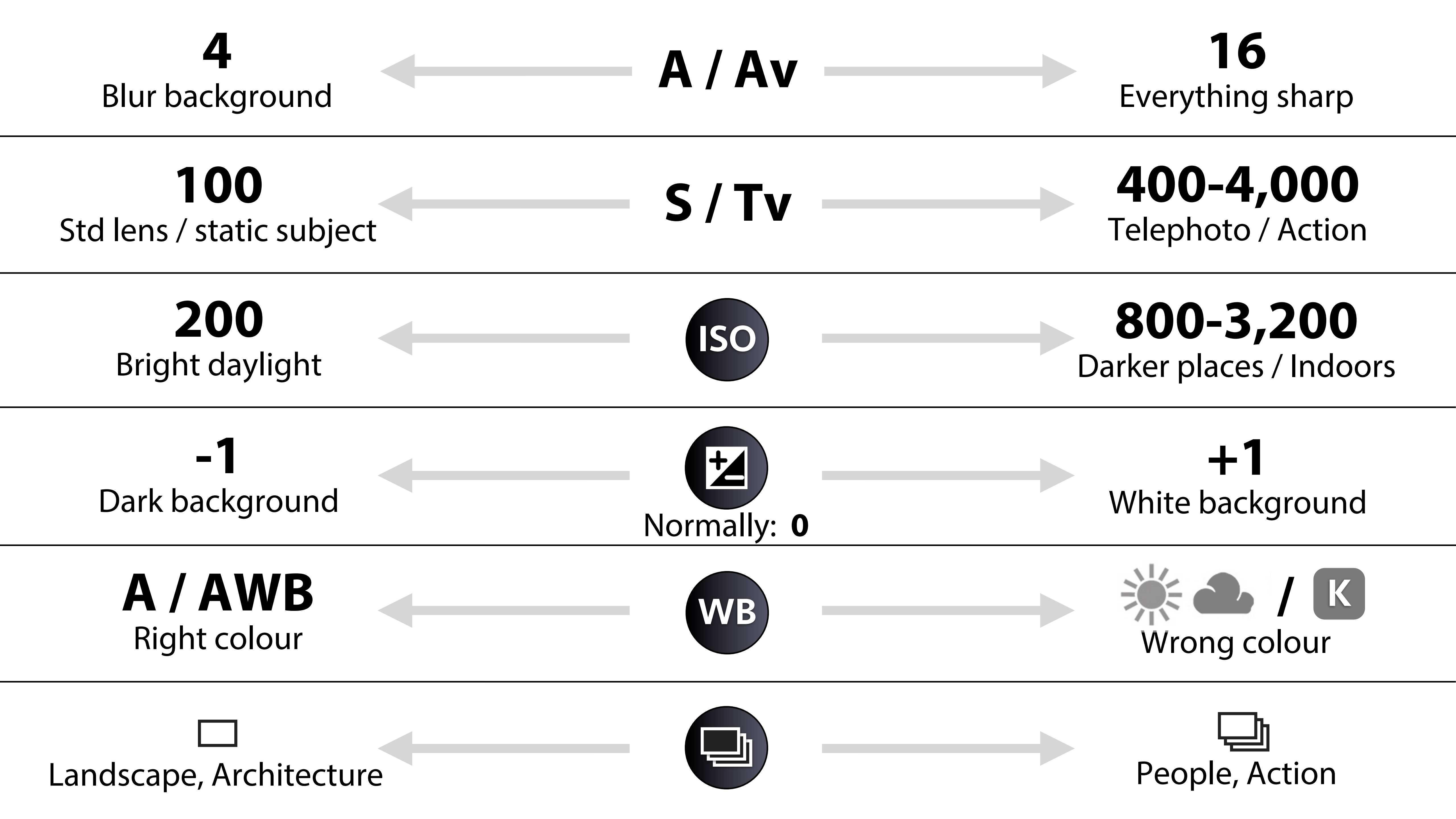


- **Right colour**



- Avoid photos with **closed eyes** or in **awkward positions**







# QUICK SETTINGS GUIDE

BASIC SETTINGS				ADJUSTMENTS			
Stationary Subjects	A (Av)	People Animals	Aperture 4	Low Light	Telephoto Lens	Dominant Dark/White	Wrong Colour
		Landscape Architecture	Aperture 16				
Fast Action	S (Tv)	Freeze	Shutter 1/1000+	ISO 800-3,200	Shutter Speed 2x Focal Length	Exposure Compens. -1/+1	White Balance Weather Icon or K
		Blur	Shutter 1/20				



# MY DEFAULT SETTINGS

## DEFAULT

## CHANGES

Typical Subject:	<b>People (Candid) Outdoors</b>
Lens:	<b>70-200mm</b>
Mode:	<b>A</b>
Aperture:	<b>4</b>
ISO:	<b>400</b>
Shutter Speed	<b>1/400s+</b>

Architecture / Landscape?	16
Darker Areas?	800-1,600
Fast Action?	1/2,000s