

## *Glossary of Photographic Terms*

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**Aperture:** Adjustable opening that controls the quantity of light that strikes the camera film plane. Larger openings allow more light to fall onto the film plane.

**Available or Ambient Light:** The existing light in the immediate environment. This refers to any type of existing light source including: the sun, tungsten (electric household lamp), window light, fire light. Available light generally does not refer to the photographer's flash.

**Contrast:** Term describing the degree of difference between light areas and dark areas of a scene. Expressed as high or low contrast.

**Depth-of-field:** The amount of a scene that appears to be in acceptable focus. This degree of focus may be increased or decreased by changing the aperture size. Note that only 1 plane can be in absolute focus at 1 time.

**Emulsion:** Light sensitive chemicals that are suspended in gelatin and applied to film in layers for capturing photographic images.

**F stop:** Numbers indicating the aperture sizes of lenses. Some f/# are f/2, f/2.8, f/4, f/5.6, f/11 etc. The larger an f/# is, the smaller the given aperture is (f/2.8=Large opening; f/22=very small opening. Most consumer lenses start at about f/2 (large aperture) and close down to about f/16 (small aperture).

**ISO:** International Standards Organization. Standard rating system describing the sensitivity to light of a given film. Each whole number increment is a 1 stop increase or decrease. Example: ISO 100 film needs 1 stop more light (double the quantity of light) than ISO 200 film in order to achieve a film proper exposure. ISO 100 film is less sensitive to light than ISO 200 film.

**Lens:** Light gathering glass elements at front of camera. The elements are arranged in groups and focus the light to a sharp point on the film plane.

**Light meter:** Measuring device on-board all 35mm cameras. Light meters measure

**the intensity of light bouncing off surface of photographic subject. Meter is calibrated to assume the subject is inherently mid-toned (18% gray)**

**Negative: A piece of light sensitive film that has a reverse image recorded on it.**

**Print: Type of photographic image that is recorded on the emulsion side of light sensitive paper. The visible image is a positive. It is properly viewed when illuminated from the front. Slides may also be made from prints.**

**Shutter: Light tight window in camera that snaps open, then snaps closed for a prescribed duration to allow a specific amount of light to strike the camera film plane.**

**Slide/Transparency/Reversal/Chrome: A positive photographic image that is recorded directly to the emulsion side of film. It is properly viewed when illuminated from the rear. Prints may also be made from slides.**

**Viewfinder: Viewing window on camera that permits accurate focusing and composition. Varying amounts of photographic exposure/focus data is also visible within the window depending on the camera model.**