

10 quick tips

TO BETTER PHOTOS WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE

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TO BETTER PHOTOS WITH YOUR
SMARTPHONE



You will learn

- How to find the best light
- Capture action shots
- Nail focus
- + more techniques and a BONUS editing video



You carry it everywhere

We snap photos of everything
now it's time to learn how to
make it a great photo every time.

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YOU CAN GET A GREAT PHOTO WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE.

People often ask me if I bring my “big camera” everywhere I go. While I probably should, I don’t. Like most of you, I’ve come to rely on my smartphone camera. Believe it or not, if you know the basics of photography, you already know how to take better photos with your smartphone.

All the photos below were taken with my smartphone! I’ve put together some of my favorite tips and tricks for making the most out of your smartphone camera

"ALL THESE PHOTOS WERE TAKEN WITH MY SMARTPHONE"

If this gets you excited and you're ready to learn more! Sign up for an in-person or online course to get even better.



TIP 1 STAND STILL & USE TWO HANDS FOR STABILITY

If you feel like your smartphone pictures lack sharpness, the solution could be as simple as holding your camera with two hands and standing still.

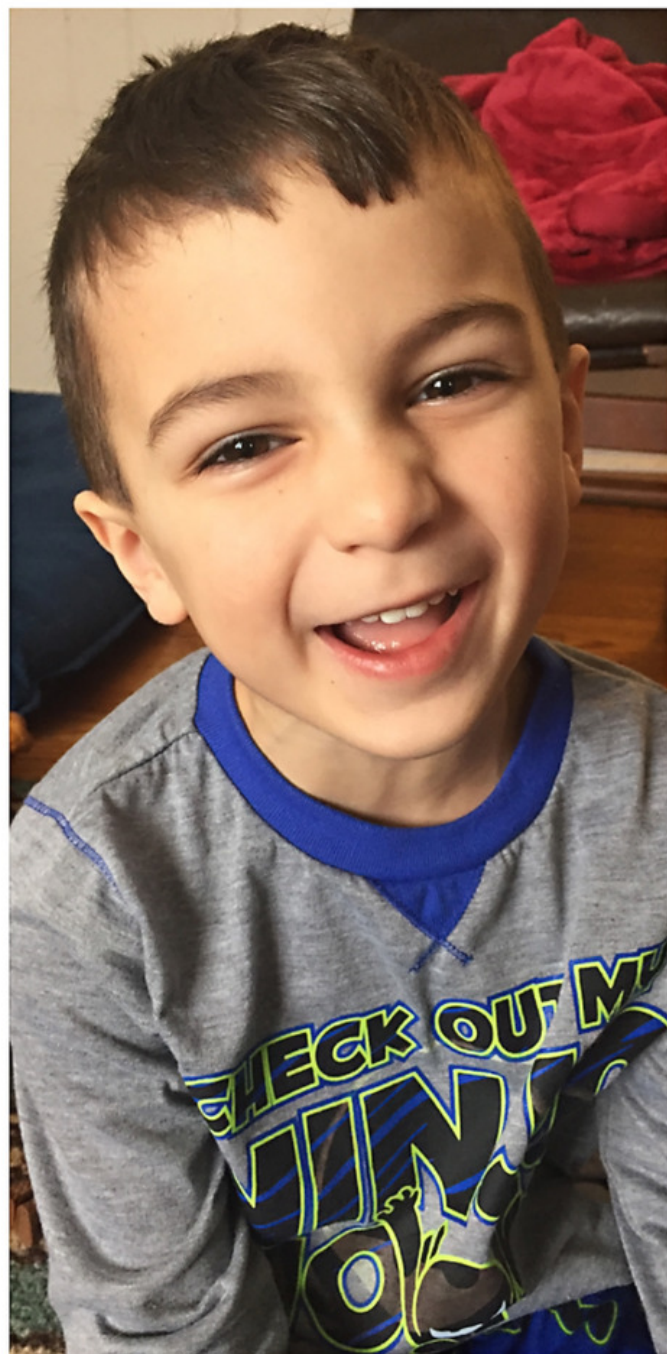
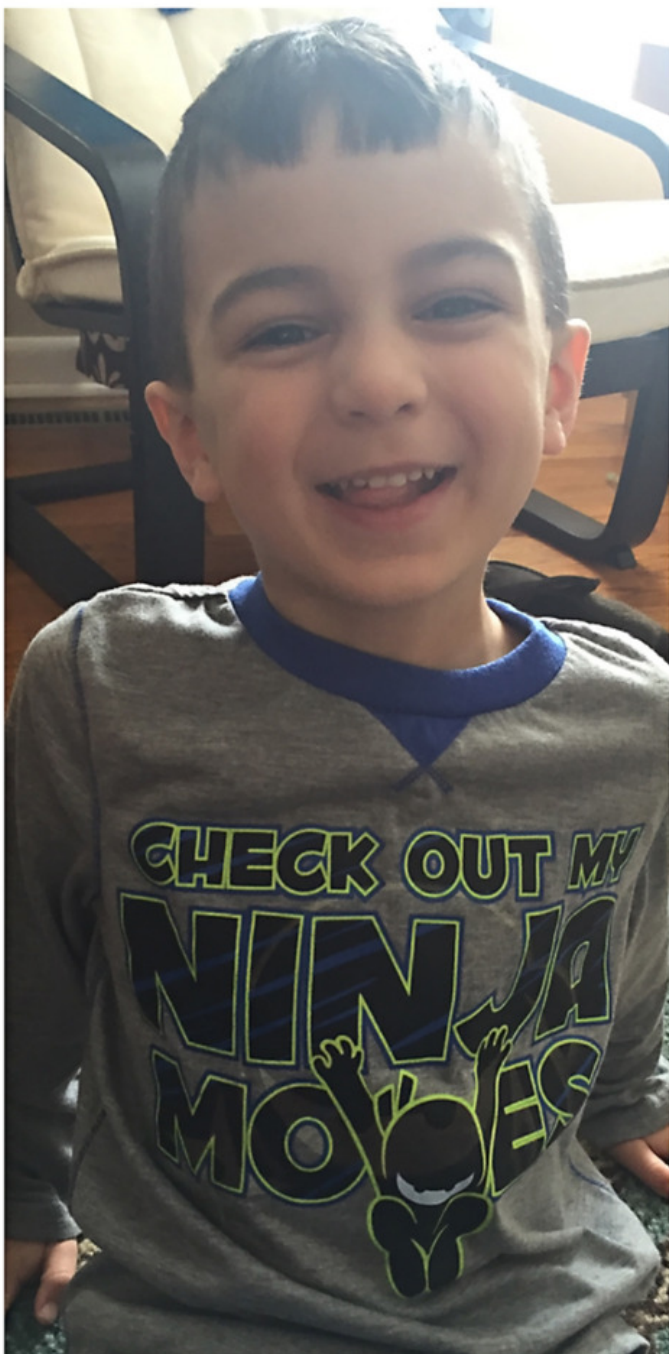
We've all held our phone out in front of us with one hand to take a picture. Sometimes we even do it while walking. Stop! Whether you're shooting in portrait or landscape mode, holding the phone in two hands and resting your elbows against your torso for stability will give you the best chance of taking a sharp picture.

The camera shutter isn't released until you take your thumb off the shutter button on the touch screen. Try pressing the shutter button before you frame your shot and then gently release the button. This is especially helpful when shooting indoors in low light because it eliminates the impact of your finger pressing the button and potentially making the camera shake.



TRY THIS:

The volume + button on the side of the phone can also be used to release the shutter and greatly decrease camera shake.



TRY THIS:

Put the sun both in front of and behind your subject and compare the two images to see what a difference the right lighting can make to an image.

TIP 2 LOOK FOR THE LIGHT.

With the limited setting on smartphone cameras, the amount of available light also plays a part in taking sharp pictures. The more light there is, the better your smartphone camera will be able to combat shutter lag and freeze motion. It's difficult to take a sharp picture of a baby crawling in a dim living room but if you move outside during the day, you'll get a nice sharp image. If you want sharper, less blurry pictures go somewhere with good, natural (from the sun, not a lamp or overhead light) light. You don't necessarily have to go outside. Move close to a window or an open door.

These photos were taken seconds apart and all he did was turn to face the window. What a simple solution! This is why car selfies are the best! Good light makes all the difference between a mediocre and a great photo. I would go as far as to say that good light is more important than an interesting background or subject. If you're shooting a portrait, avoid sunny and direct light on faces. This kind of light causes harsh shadows and squinting. If this is the kind of light you have to work with, try putting the sun behind your subject. This will give you the opportunity to play with sun flare and create backlit images. When possible, look for open shade along the side of a building or under a tree.

TIP 3 TURN OFF YOUR FLASH

While the flash on smartphones has improved quite a bit over the years, you can't change the fact that it's just a small and not very powerful LED light. If you're shooting at night, use the camera app's exposure slider to brighten the photo (see Tip 6).



TRY THIS:

Take a photo in low light and then take the same photo using the exposure slider to compare.



TRY THIS:

Using live mode on the iPhone, choose to edit the photo and you can now choose the photo frame image you'd like to keep.

After using Galaxy S7 camera burst mode, the Gallery App in Galaxy S7 can identify one of the best photo for you.

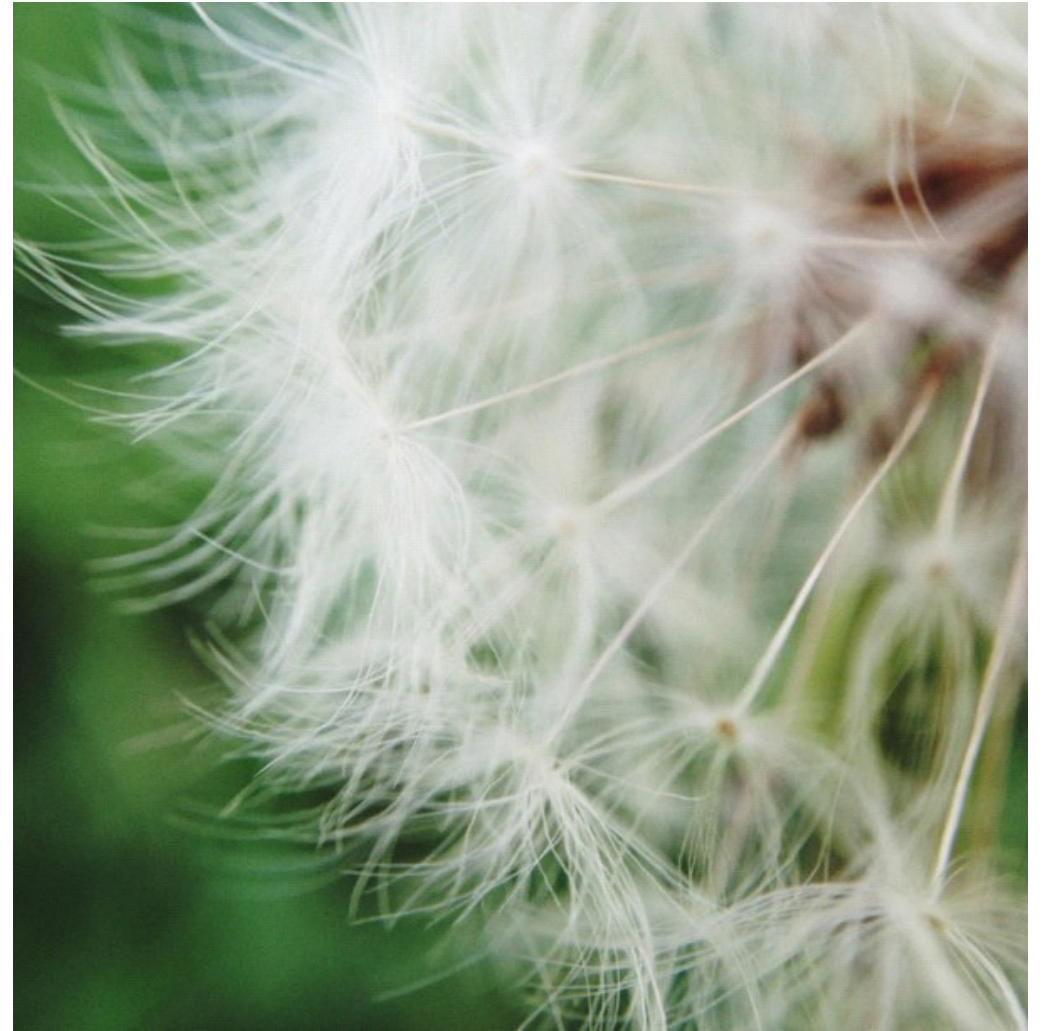
TIP 4 USE BURST MODE FOR ACTION SHOTS.

Burst mode is great for when you are trying to photograph a moving subject such as a running animal or toddler or someone playing a sport. By snapping images in quick succession, you're more likely to get a shot that's in focus and you may even have several keepers to choose from.

Burst Mode is available on most of the newer models. To access it, just hold down the shutter button (or volume + button) and the phone will continuously take pictures until you lift your finger again.

TIP 5 TOUCH YOUR CAMERA SCREEN WHERE YOU WANT TO FOCUS

Chances are, at one time or another you've had your smartphone camera focus on something other than what you would like to focus on. To prevent this, tap and hold on the spot you want the camera to focus until you see the yellow AE/AF Lock alert. Once that pops up, the automatic exposure metering and automatic focus metering have been locked on your subject. Check out the video below for directions of how to use this feature.



TRY THIS:

Take one image without locking focus - then try pressing your screen to lock focus.



TRY THIS:

Take a photo at Sunset and increase the exposure by tapping on the screen.

TIP 6 SLIDE THE EXPOSURE METER TO LIGHTEN AND DARKEN IMAGES.

When you point your camera at a subject or scene, it does its best to get you a properly exposed image. You've probably noticed though that sometimes it does a better job than others.

Often times our smartphone cameras want to make our images too dark (underexposed) and sometimes they're too bright (overexposed)

When exposure problems happen, you can fix it before taking the picture by adjusting the yellow exposure slider next to the focus square. Just tap the spot on the phone screen where you want to change the exposure and then use the sun icon to increase (slide up) or decrease (slide down) the exposure. You can see this feature in action by watching the included video.

TIP 7 TURN ON HDR AUTO

iPhones have a feature called High Dynamic Range, or HDR. Not all Android devices support HDR Mode. The best way to check for HDR capability is by looking for the HDR option in your device's Camera app or a quick google search to find the exact location. The HDR option on some high-end Android devices can be found under the shooting mode or settings menu

HDR allows you to take pictures that have high contrast light sources (for example, a bright sunset against a dark mountain) and better capture both the light or the dark area of the picture without losing details. The idea is that the resulting image will be truer to what the eyes sees. It does this by taking three pictures, low, medium and high contrast in quick succession and then blending them to create a final HDR image. HDR is a good choice for stationary images with interesting lighting. Don't try to use it for action shots though. There's a good chance that when it blends the three images together, it won't be sharp.

You can manually turn HDR on or off from the Camera app, but if you have an iPhone 5s or newer, you can just switch it into HDR Auto mode. In HDR Auto, when you point your camera at something, the iPhone's camera sensor will determine if the image might need HDR correction. For Android users, if your camera doesn't have the mode, try downloading the app HDR Camera.



TRY THIS:

Take a photo without HDR and then take the same image again using HDR. Compare the images side by side to see the difference.



TRY THIS:

Take a photo - then move a few steps one way to try and eliminate distractions in the background. Compare the images to see how a few steps makes a big difference.

TIP 8 CHANGE YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

Composition is one of the most important aspects of photography and also, probably one of the most taken for granted. How you frame your subject and compose your shot ultimately determines how memorable and interesting it is.

A lot of times, we see something that we want to take a picture of and take 15 images of the same thing. Moving a few feet to the right or to the left, getting higher and getting lower can totally change an image and give you a series of unique and interesting images instead of dozens that are almost identical.

Changing your perspective can also help eliminate distracting background elements like cars and other people. It's important to pay attention to the whole scene. Nothing ruins a portrait faster than a lamp post or street sign coming out of the top of your subjects head! A few steps to the right or left or getting a little higher or lower is all you have to do to get rid of distracting background elements.

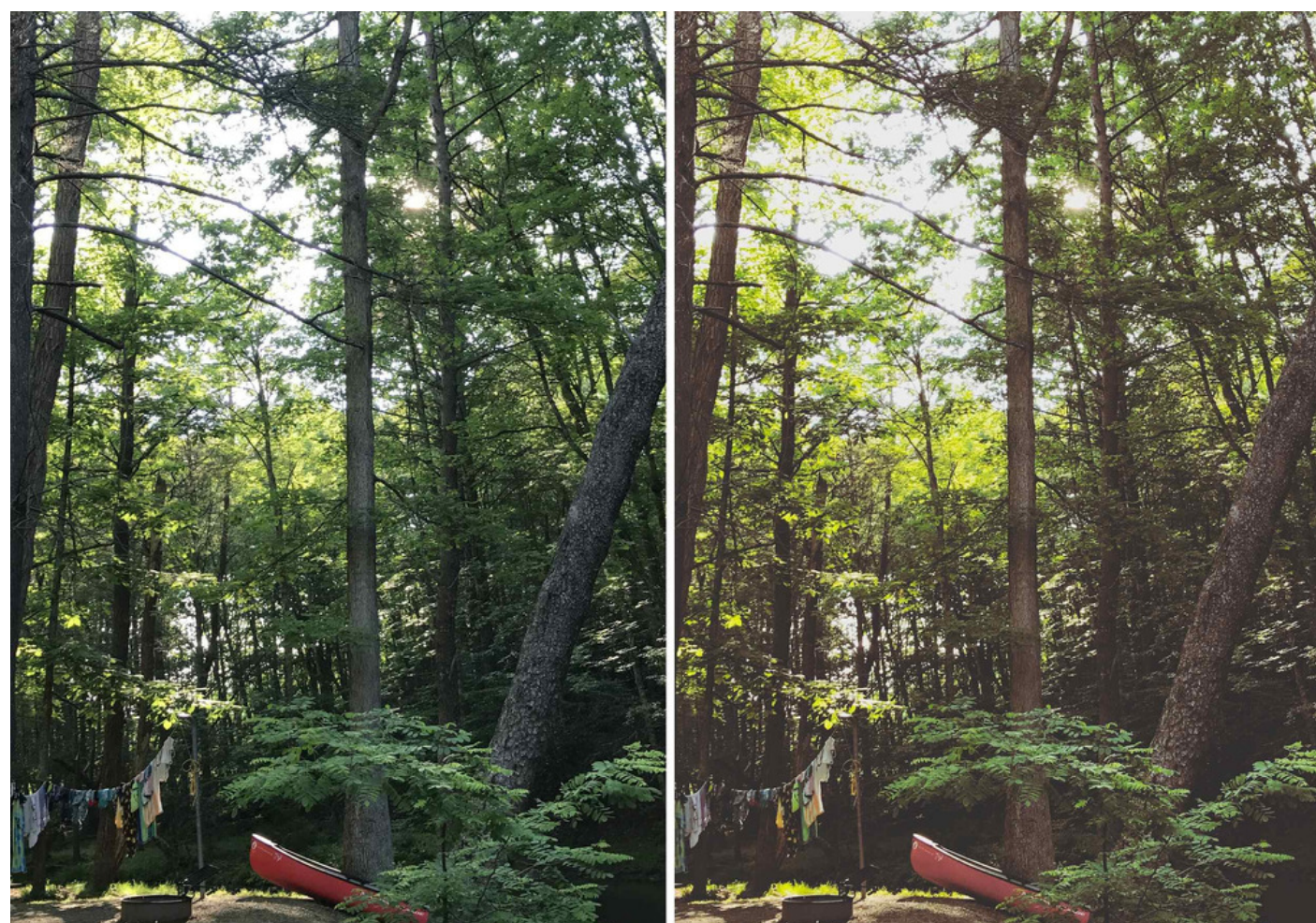
TIP 9 GET CLOSER AND FILL THE FRAME.

Sometimes the surroundings are part of the story and we want to include them in the image. Your best friend in front of the Eiffel Tower, your daughter playing in the waves at the beach, etc...

Sometimes the surroundings aren't important though and can actually be distracting. Are we looking at the couch? The clutter on the coffee table? Is it the car in the background? Or is it that cute baby? Getting close to our subjects and filling the frame with them can make the resulting image more intimate and help clearly define them as the focus.

TRY THIS:

Stand where you would normally stand to take a picture and take one. Now take two steps closer. Take another shot. Now, try getting as close as your smartphone camera will allow you to get and take another. Look at your shots. Which is your favorite?



TRY THIS:

Take your favorite photo and run it through one of the apps above. Share your photo with others to see what they think! use #krosephotoclass and so I can see it too!

TIP 8 USE AN EDITING APP TO MAKE YOUR PHOTOS POP

There are a lot of apps on the market that can be used to edit images on your smartphone. Many people use Instagram or other apps that apply filters to the entire image. While there is nothing wrong with using filters if you're putting them on top of an image that is not exposed properly or with incorrect white balance (color) your picture won't look as good as it could. Two of my favorite editing apps are Snapseed and PicTapGo. Snapseed allows you to correct exposure and color for the entire image or to make adjustments to specific parts. PicTapGo includes filters that correct exposure, contrast, and color. The picture above was edited with PicTapGo.

HAVE A FANCY CAMERA {ADVANCED DIGITAL OR DSLR} AND NO CLUE HOW TO USE IT?

It's ok to admit it. You bought the camera or received the gift and you've put it away because using the smartphone is easier.

Well, even though our phones can do a great job a DSLR will blow it out of the water every time!

It's time to learn how to use it and take an online or in-person photography course. I offer Sweet Clicks Photography Course. Check it out!

YOUR BONUS EDITING VIDEO {CLICK HERE}

Check out this video tutorial to find out how to use the AE/AF Lock and how to use my favorite editing app!

Want to Rock Your Photography Skills!? Join me for my next in person class!

