

## Glossary of Photographic Terms

When you are writing about your work or the work of others it is important that you use keywords and terms correctly.

Below are some of the keywords and terms which are commonly misused. Check your own understanding before using them to discuss your work.

<b>Aperture</b>	This is the hole down the middle of the lens, it controls how much light comes into the lens of your camera and hits the sensor. It also controls how much of your image is in focus or not (i.e.. what is clearly and sharply seen and what is blurred out) .
<b>Background</b>	The image or scene behind the main subject of the photograph.
<b>Birds-eye-view</b>	A camera angle which looks down on the subject. This can make your subject look small or submissive.
<b>Blur</b>	The effect which makes an image appear unclear or unsharp. This could be caused by the camera or subject moving during the exposure or by the lens not being focused correctly.
<b>Complimentary Colours</b>	Colours which are opposite each other on the colour wheel.
<b>Composition</b>	The arrangement of the subject and surrounding elements of a photograph as seen through the viewfinder.
<b>Contact Sheet</b>	A collection of all the images taken during a photoshoot or project which helps you to compare the images and choose the best ones to use.
<b>Contrast</b>	The brightness range of the subject or the scene lighting (what range of blacks to whites there are in the image). High contrast scene - has a wide range of blacks to whites. Low contrast scene - has a narrow range of blacks to whites.
<b>Depth of Field</b>	The range of objects which are in focus between the nearest and furthest objects in a photograph. Depth of field is controlled by the aperture f-stop selection, and influenced by a particular lens focal length.
<b>Exposure</b>	The total amount of light allowed through a lens and onto a camera's sensor. The exposure is controlled by the aperture, shutter-speed and ISO settings. Overexposure - When too much light reaches the digital camera sensor, creating a photograph that appears too light and washed out. Underexposure - When too little light reaches the digital camera sensor producing a dark and muddy-looking image.
<b>Focal Point</b>	The most important part of the image where the eye is first drawn to.