

Common Faults in Images

Chiltern U3A Photography Group

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Focus Problems

Exposure Problems

Composition Problems

Processing Problems

Focus Problems

What's wrong?

Exposure Problems

How to avoid it

Composition Problems

How to fix it

Processing Problems

Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Focussed at the wrong point

How to avoid

Focus at desired point, half press shutter, recompose

Select focus point on touch screen

Select appropriate auto-focus points (DSLRs)

How to fix

Go back and retake

NB. Sharpening will NOT work

Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Too close to subject

How to avoid

Move back

Switch on macro mode

Use a different lens

How to fix

Go back and retake

Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Camera shake

How to avoid

Ensure IS/VR is switched on

Use a faster shutter speed

Set the speed or use a larger aperture or higher ISO

Use a tripod

Rest against a fixed object

How to fix

Go back and retake

Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Subject Movement

How to avoid

Faster shutter speed

Pan camera

Takes practice!

How to fix

Go back and retake

Focussing Problems

What's wrong?

Subject Movement

How to avoid

Faster shutter speed

Wait for wind to drop

How to fix

Go back and retake



Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Excessive depth of field

How to avoid

Use wider aperture

But be careful where you focus

How to fix

Blur background in Photoshop

Duplicate layer

Select foreground on top layer and create layer mask

Blur bottom layer

Focussing Problems



Blurred in Photoshop

What's wrong?

Excessive depth of field

How to avoid

Use wider aperture

But be careful where you focus

How to fix

Blur background in Photoshop

Duplicate layer

Select foreground on top layer and create layer mask

Blur bottom layer

Or use Lens Blur

Focussing Problems



What's wrong?

Insufficient depth of field

How to avoid

Use smaller aperture

But be careful that shutter speed is OK

More of a problem with long lenses

Use a shorter lens and get closer

Particular care needed with close-ups

Find a better angle

How to fix

Not much you can do

Exposure Problems



What's wrong?

Overexposed, blown highlights

How to avoid

Use centre weighted or spot metering

Dial in exposure compensation

For an overall dark picture try -1 stop

Bracket exposures, possibly for HDR

How to fix

Process the RAW image

For jpg, try shadows/highlights

Exposure Problems



What's wrong?

Underexposed, blocked shadows

How to avoid

Use centre weighted or spot metering

Dial in exposure compensation

For an overall light picture try +1 stop

Use fill-in flash

Use gradient filter to darken sky

Bracket exposures, possibly for HDR

How to fix

Process the RAW image

For jpg, try shadows/highlights

Exposure Problems



Processed from RAW

What's wrong?

Underexposed, blocked shadows

How to avoid

Use centre weighted or spot metering

Dial in exposure compensation

For an overall light picture try +1 stop

Use fill-in flash

Use gradient filter to darken sky

Bracket exposures, possibly for HDR

How to fix

Process the RAW image

For jpg, try shadows/highlights

Exposure Problems



Shadows/highlights in Photoshop

What's wrong?

Underexposed, blocked shadows

How to avoid

Use centre weighted or spot metering

Dial in exposure compensation

For an overall light picture try +1 stop

Use fill-in flash

Use gradient filter to darken sky

How to fix

Process the RAW image

For jpg, try shadows/highlights

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Lack of focus on main subject

How to avoid

Get in closer

How to fix

Crop

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Lack of focus on main subject

How to avoid

Get in closer

How to fix

Crop

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Distracting elements

How to avoid

Wait till they have gone

Move to a better viewpoint

How to fix

Crop

Clone

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Distracting elements

How to avoid

Wait till they have gone

Move to a better viewpoint

How to fix

Crop

Clone

A better viewpoint

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Distracting elements

How to avoid

Wait till they have gone

Move to a better viewpoint

How to fix

Crop

Clone

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Distracting elements

How to avoid

Wait till they have gone

Move to a better viewpoint

How to fix

Crop

Clone

Cloned

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Sloping Horizon

How to avoid

Use a tripod

Use the spirit level on your camera

How to fix

Rotate in PS

Composition Problems



Fixed in PS

What's wrong?

Sloping Horizon

How to avoid

Use a tripod

Use the spirit level on your camera

How to fix

Rotate in PS

Composition Problems



What's wrong?

Converging verticals

How to avoid

Shoot from further away

Shoot from a higher point

How to fix

Transform in PS

Composition Problems



Fixed in PS

What's wrong?

Converging verticals

How to avoid

Shoot from further away

Shoot from a higher point

How to fix

Transform in PS

Composition Problems



Shot from further away

What's wrong?

Converging verticals

How to avoid

Shoot from further away

Shoot from a higher point

How to fix

Transform in PS

Processing Problems



What's wrong?

Over enlargement

How to avoid

Get closer

Use a macro lens

How to fix

Not possible

Processing Problems



What's wrong?

Over sharpened – shows halos

How to avoid

Don't do it

How to fix

Did you save the original?

Processing Problems



What's wrong?

Over processed – looks unnatural

How to avoid

Back off

How to fix

Did you save the original?