
"Quick Bytes"
Aperture &
Depth of Field
landscape
product
macro
architectural
Sports
Fashion
plant
People

Question: What is meant by a "Quick Byte"

- "A Quick-Byte is a short, five-minute mini-presentation at the start of the group meeting.
- It's a simple, practical idea that builds on what we've recently covered, by way of a recap.
- They are the basis of the Photo Challenges that we can share next time.

Aperture and Depth of Field

This one is all about the Depth of Field, and how much of your subject is in focus.

Aperture sounds technical, but it's just a creative choice:

- How much do you want the viewer to notice?

Today we'll keep it simple and practical — no maths, no jargon, just what you need to make the camera do what *you* want.

What Depth of Field ?

When you focus on a point in a scene, there will be an area in front of and behind that also appears sharp.
This is the depth of field, and it can be expanded or contracted by changing the aperture.
Aperture is literally the size of the lens opening
Your camera shows this as *f-numbers* — f/2.8, f/5.6, f/11 and so on.

- **Small f-number = big opening = shallow focus**
- **Large f-number = small opening = deep focus**

Think of it like squinting: when your eyes narrow, more of the scene becomes sharp.”

Aperture & Depth of Field

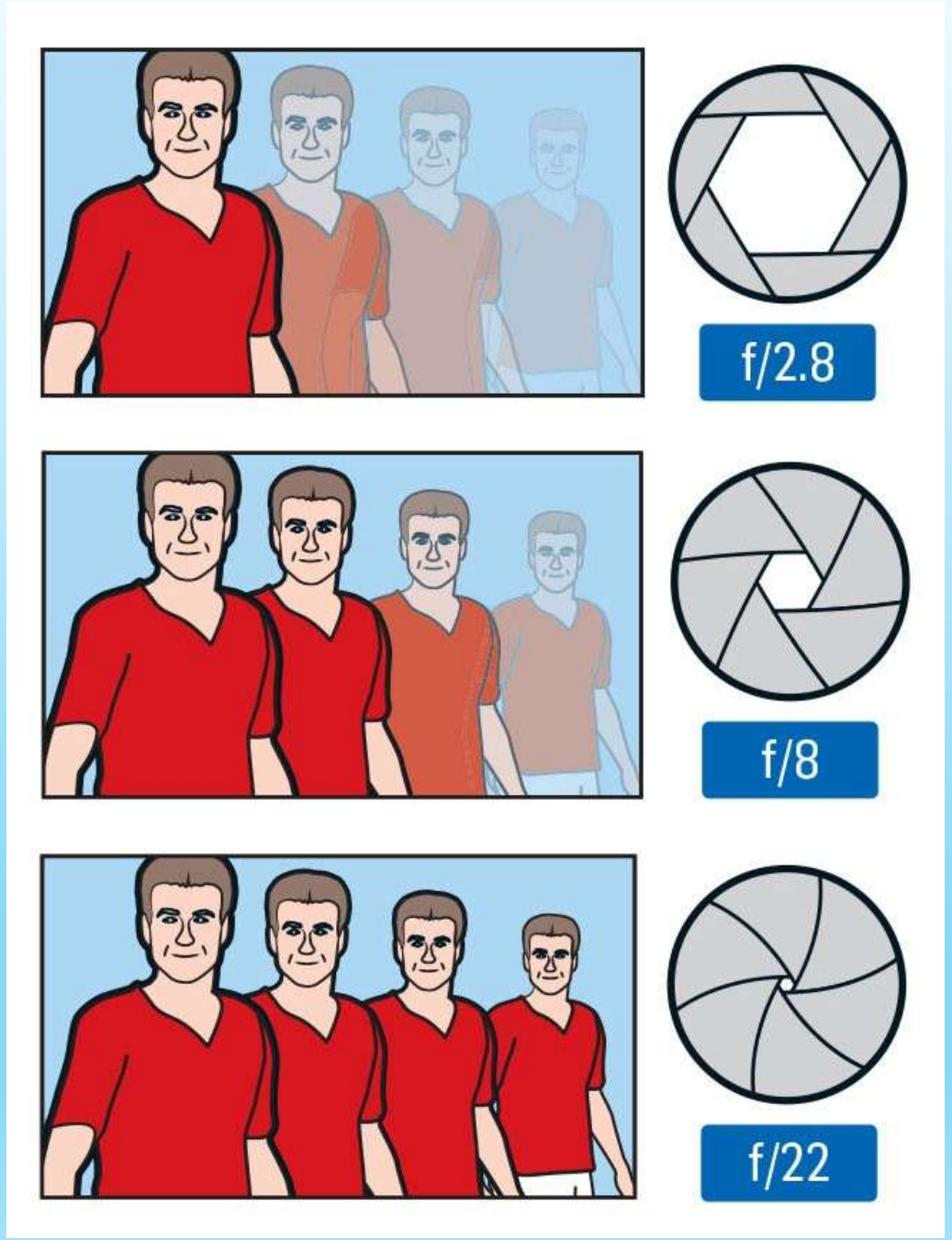
How to make more or less of a scene appear sharply focused

Small f-numbers = smaller DoF

Choose a small f-number (f/1.4, f/1.8, f/2.8. . .) for a shallow depth of field. This is useful for blurring a background in a photo – try this when taking a portrait.

Big f-numbers = bigger DoF

Larger f-numbers (f/11, f/16, f/22 . . .) increase the depth of field, allowing more of a scene to appear sharply focused. Try using them when shooting landscapes

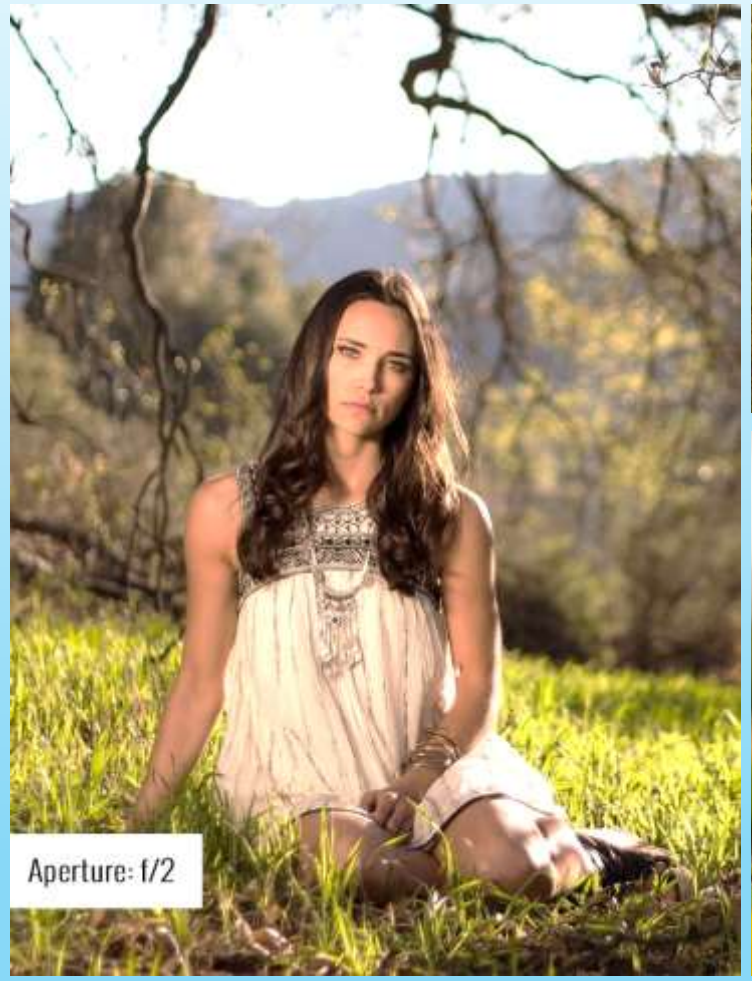


Everyday Examples

You already recognise aperture effects even if you've never named them.

- **Blurry backgrounds** — portraits where the person pops out and everything behind melts away.
- **Sharp landscapes** — when you want the whole scene crisp from the grass at your feet to the clouds on the horizon.
- **Close ups** — flowers, textures, tiny details where only a sliver is sharp.

These are all just aperture choices. Once you see it, you can't unsee it."



Why It Matters

Aperture isn’t just technical — it’s emotional.

- It **controls depth**, deciding how much of the world you invite into the frame.
- It **shapes mood** — shallow depth feels intimate and dreamy; deep depth feels clear, calm, and observational.
- And it **affects light** — a wider opening lets in more light, a narrower one less.

So, aperture is always part of the exposure triangle, and today we’re just focusing on the creative side.”

Try this — “Blur vs Sharp” – Two Images

These two images are of the same subject showing different Depths of Field.

- **One blur-heavy**
- **One sharp-throughout.**

This is a great way to train your eye.
When you look at your pair, ask yourself:

- Which one feels more inviting?
- Which one tells the story better?
- Which one draws the viewer’s eye where you want it?

There’s no right answer — just creative control.

Was that enough to recap on what we covered at the last meeting, or would you like more?

Depth of Field is what it say’s it is, the depth of the image actually in focus, whether it is a tiny flower head or a huge landscape, it depends on the aperture used for what’s in focus.