



# *A Simple Guide to Manual Mode*

By: Bessie Young Photography  
[www.bessieyoungphotography.com](http://www.bessieyoungphotography.com)





# So What is Manual Mode?

Manual mode is basically how you tell your camera to take a photo. It will let you control your shutter speed, aperture, and ISO. When you use manual mode and use these three settings together this is known as the exposure triangle.

The three settings working together will allow you to control how bright or dark your photo is. You are ultimately controlling the exposure and the depth of field. This is going to allow you to be able to manipulate the overall look of the image.

Now, don't get too worried if you don't know what these things are yet! That is ultimately why you are here right? We are going to take it step by step on how to get the exact look that you are wanting and to ensure you get the correct exposure.

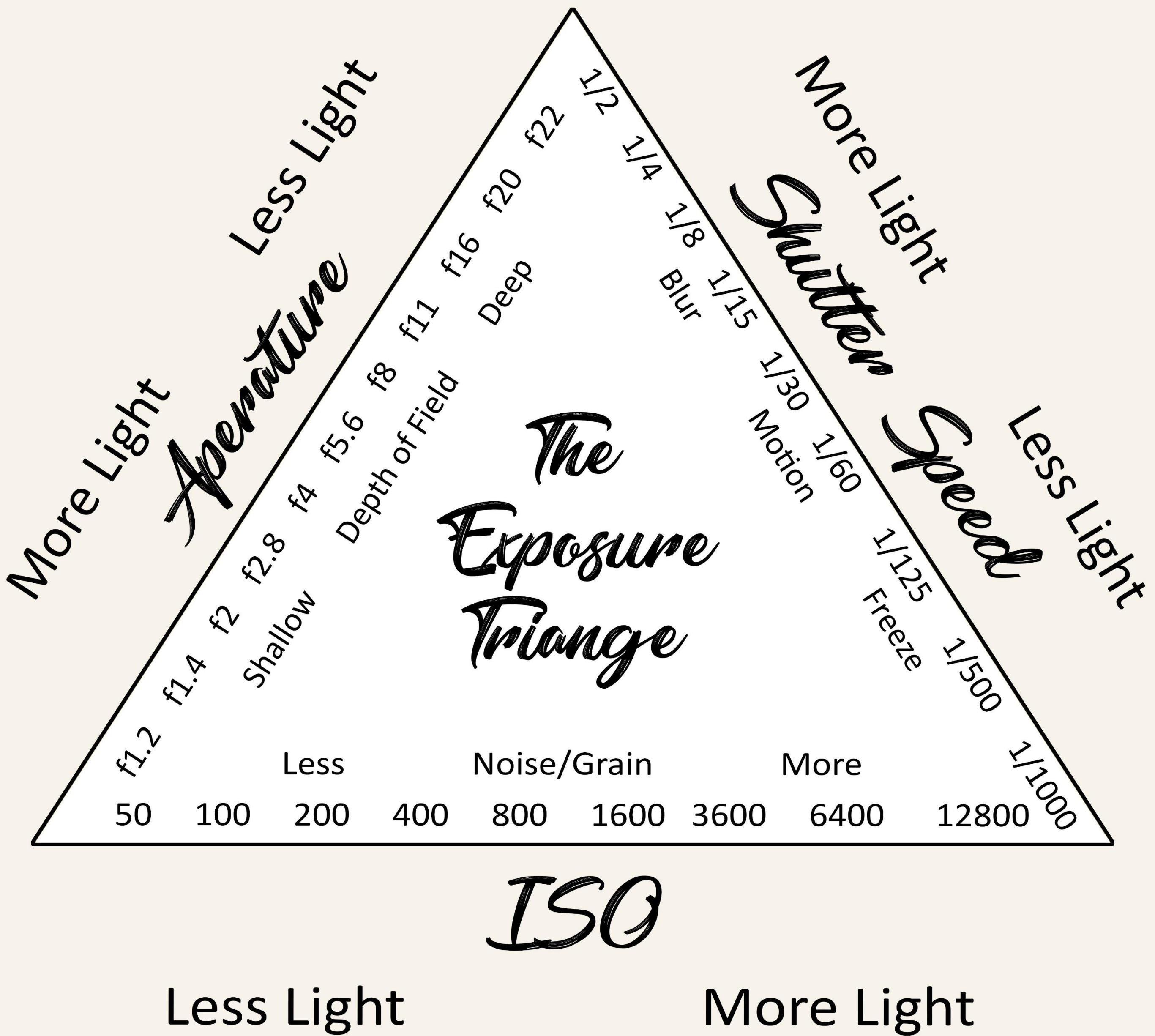
There are other settings in the camera that you will need to learn, such as white balance; however, this guide is all about focusing on these three modes in order to explain manual mode and help you know how to use it.

Once you learn how to use manual mode you are going to have so much control over the overall look of your images, and its really where you can become the most creative rather than relying on Auto!



# Exposure

Once I figured out how these three worked together, and I finally started to really understand light, my photography forever changed.





# Aperature

Lower F Value = More light

Higher F Value = Less Light

f1.4 f2 f2.8 f4 f5.6 f8 f11 f16 f22

Shallow Depth of Field

Deep Depth of field

# Shutter Speed

Slower Shutter = more light

faster shutter speed = less light

1" 1/25 1/50 1/100 1/250 1/500 1/1000

Motion Blur

Freeze in motion

# ISO

Low ISO = low sensitivity to light

High ISO = high sensitivity to light

100 200 400 800 1600 3200 6400

Less Noise / Grain

More Noise / Grain



# Cheat Sheet

## If your image is too bright:

- \* increase your shutter speed
- \* pick a bigger F stop #
- \* decrease your ISO

## If your image is too dark:

- \* Decrease your shutter speed
- \* pick a smaler F stop #
- \* Increase your ISO

## If your images aren't sharp enough:

- \* Increase your shutter spead

## Depth of Field (DOF) Issues:

- \* A small F stop # = shallow DOF
- \* A large F stop # = larger DOF

## Aperature for group portraits:

- \* Rule of thumb: the number of people should = AT LEAST the aperature number.
- \* Example: if you have 2 people your F should be at least 2.8  
4 people your f should be at least 4.0  
5 people your f should be at least 5.6  
so on and so forth





*Thank you!!!*

I hope you enjoyed all this information on how to shoot in manual mode.  
Make sure to tag me, @bessieyoungphotography ,  
in your social media posts so I can see all the goodness that you create!

Want to learn more?  
Check out my website for mentor sessions, online courses,  
and in person workshops!  
website: [www.bessieyoungphotography.com](http://www.bessieyoungphotography.com)

Where to find me:  
Youtube: [youtube.com/bessieyoungphotography](https://youtube.com/bessieyoungphotography)  
Instagram: [@bessieyoungphotography](https://instagram.com/bessieyoungphotography)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/bessieyoungphotography](https://facebook.com/bessieyoungphotography)  
Pinterest: [pinterest.com/bessyoungphoto](https://pinterest.com/bessyoungphoto)  
Landscape Website: [www.bessieyoungphotography.com](http://www.bessieyoungphotography.com)  
Portrait Website: [www.bessieyoung.photography](http://www.bessieyoung.photography)