

Picture Practice

Twelve practical exercises. One ordinary camera. Better decisions, one picture at a time.



Setting / detail / what changed.

What you get

- Phone and camera instructions for every exercise.
- A clear aim, a controlled change and a way to review the result.
- Spaces to record settings, observations and your next attempt.
- A final three-picture project and reusable practice pages.

Use what you already have

- A phone or camera, ordinary household objects and available light.
- No paid app, special lens or lighting kit is required.
- Print at 100% / actual size. Black-and-white printing is fine.

Personal practice edition. Original exercises and diagrams by Shruti. No photography income or skill level is promised.

Start small

- Pick one exercise. Allow about 15-25 minutes; your pace may differ.
- Read the aim and choose a safe subject. Get consent before photographing people.
- Change only the named factor where practical. Note any other changes.
- Keep the original files and compare them on the same screen.
- Write what improved and what you will try next. Repeat rather than rushing.

Phone or camera?

- Use the phone instructions when manual controls are unavailable. Most phones cannot change lens aperture in the standard camera app.
- Use the camera path only if your equipment supports the named control. Automatic modes are valid starting points.
- Screen brightness, software processing and display colour can affect your comparison. Use the same viewing conditions.

A useful note looks like this

"I moved the mug away from the patterned wall. The handle is easier to see. Next time I will keep the window reflection out of the frame."

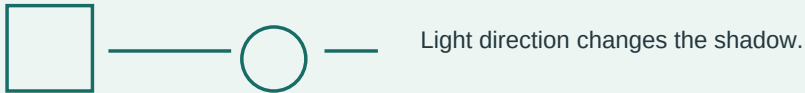
Care and privacy

- Do not photograph near traffic, ledges or unsafe places for an angle.
- Do not point a lens at the sun. Avoid photographing private documents.
- Ask permission before sharing someone else's face or work.

Find better window light

Make one ordinary object look clear without buying lights.

Change to compare: Light direction



Try it

1. Choose a mug or fruit. Clean your lens. Turn off filters and flash.
2. Place it near a window, away from direct sun. Keep the camera at the same distance.
3. Take one picture with the window behind you, one to the side and one behind the object.
4. Tap the object to focus on a phone. With a camera, use auto exposure and focus on the object.
5. Compare shadow shape, texture and bright areas. Keep the version that fits your intended mood.

Phone: If the window makes the object dark, tap the object and adjust the brightness slider. Avoid pushing highlights to solid white.

Camera: Start in an automatic mode. Keep the focal length fixed so the light direction is the main change.

Example: A side-lit mug shows a long shadow and a clearer curved handle. This is an illustrative observation, not a rule that side light always wins.

Check: I can describe where the light came from and point to its shadow.

Files / settings / what changed / next attempt
