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Understand settings and watch the sky

- Auto setting
 - The standard shot
- Use scene modes
 - Sunlight, shade, portrait... decide what you want try out various auto settings
- Aperture Priority
 - Use your SLR for creativity
 - Clouds, sunlight and shade make a huge difference to the end result



Think about verticals, horizontals and framing

- Landscape first
- Portrait shape second
- Move in or out to suit
- Ensure choice of views
- You may not have another chance!



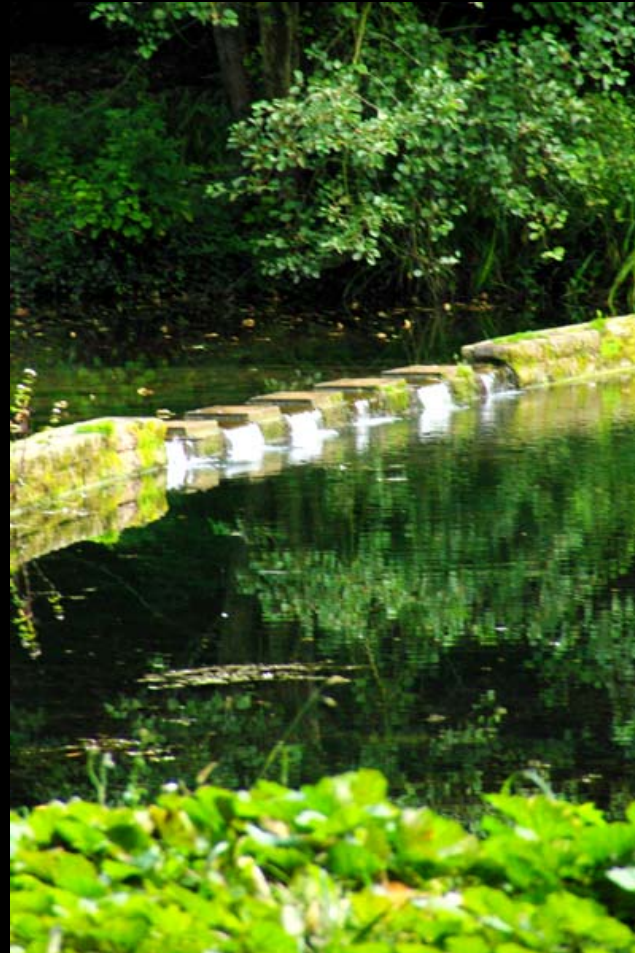
The rule of three!

- Foreground, middle ground, background
- Clean edge or framing?
- Avoid intrusions
- Think thirds?



Be flexible

- Observe the weather conditions
- If its rain or overcast, don't be put off!
- Go for city and country close-ups
- Shady shots - streams & woods
- Reflection & misty moods



Check for sharpness

- Avoid camera shake
- If in doubt use a tripod
- 50mm lens 1/50th second
- 200mm at least 1/200th second
- Lean against a wall
- Lie down elbows akimbo



Take care with the sun

- Auto settings are often baffled by the sun
- Be careful looking at the sun...your eyesight is your vital asset
- Shade out or obscure the sun
- Use a hat or a hand, tree or building or hood to shade the lens
- But, NOT always!; you can achieve some great creative effects



Make sure you have your shot, then experiment to get the creative version

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Disable the flash

- Flash in daylight – exposure problems
- Sometimes you get unwanted silhouettes
- Sometimes you get ‘white-out’
- Switch it off unless you need it to fill in a portrait or a nature close-up



Use the shade or fill-in flash for portraits!

- Use the shade to avoid harsh shadows
- Use fill-in flash when the subject's back is to the sun



Watch out for shadows or lack of shadows

- Strong sun light
..strong shadows
- Overcast sky – flowers, shady scenes or portraits
- Get up early - and stay out late!



Make sure you have everything you need.

- Spare card
- Spare battery
- Bin bag
- Smaller plastic bags
- Don't forget your phone
- Weather proofing - person and camera!

