

# Introduction to Photography

## Topic 5 - Basic DSLR Settings

### Learning Outcomes

In this topic, you will learn about the functions of the buttons on the top, the side and the back of your camera. This will give you the platform to begin to experiment and practice with the settings and from here, your confidence can only grow. It might be clichéd but the more you practice, the better you will become with mastering the camera controls.

### Basic DSLR Settings

#### Top of the camera

The top of the camera is usually where you'll find the most commonly-used controls. Let's use the Nikon D5600 as an example.



Commonly-used controls on the top of the camera include:

**Video start-stop button**

**Power switch**

**Shutter button**



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**Exposure compensation-aperture button**

**Mode dial**

**Live view switch**

**Command dial**

Those are the functions on the top of the camera and three most important buttons are the shutter button, the mode and command dial.

## Lens and side of the camera

Generally, buttons placed on the side of your camera won't be for commonly-used functions.

**Flash button**

**Function button**

**Zoom ring**

**Focus ring**

**Lens retract button**

**Lens release button**

**Drive mode button**



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## Back of the camera



Commonly-used controls on the back of the camera include:

**Menu button**

**Diopter Adjustment**

**Info button**

**Autofocus/ Auto exposure lock**

**Image playback button**

**/ button**

**OK button**

**Multi selector**

**Magnify button**

**Delete button**

**Demagnify button**



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## What have we learned today? A Summary

This overview has given you a clearer understanding of how the controls work on a DSLR. It's very likely that you might only use some of the controls as they are not all a requirement when you want to take a photograph. Being comfortable with the mode dial, command dial, and shutter release will set you up well.

