

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.

