

# Digital Snaps Photography – Shutter Speed

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In photography, **shutter speed** is a common term used to discuss **exposure time**, the effective length of time a shutter is open; the total exposure is proportional to this exposure time, or duration of light reaching the image sensor.



Factors that affect the total exposure of a photograph include the scene luminance, the **aperture size (f-number)**, and the exposure time (**shutter speed**); photographers can trade off shutter speed and aperture by using units of *stops*. A stop up and down on each will halve or double the amount of light regulated by each; exposures of equal exposure value can be easily calculated and selected. For any given total exposure, or exposure value, a fast shutter speed requires a larger aperture (**smaller f-number**). Similarly, a slow shutter speed, a longer length of time, can be compensated by a smaller aperture (**larger f-number**).



A [pinwheel](#) photographed at three different shutter speeds

The agreed standards for shutter speeds are:

- 1/1000 s
- 1/500 s
- 1/250 s
- 1/125 s
- 1/60 s
- 1/30 s
- 1/15 s
- 1/8 s
- 1/4 s
- 1/2 s
- 1 s