Digital Snaps Course - Apertures

The aperture stop of a photographic lens can be adjusted to control the amount of light reaching the image sensor. In combination with variation of shutter speed, the aperture size will regulate the degree of exposure to light. Typically, a fast shutter speed will require a larger aperture to ensure sufficient light exposure, and a slow shutter speed will require a smaller aperture to avoid excessive exposure.

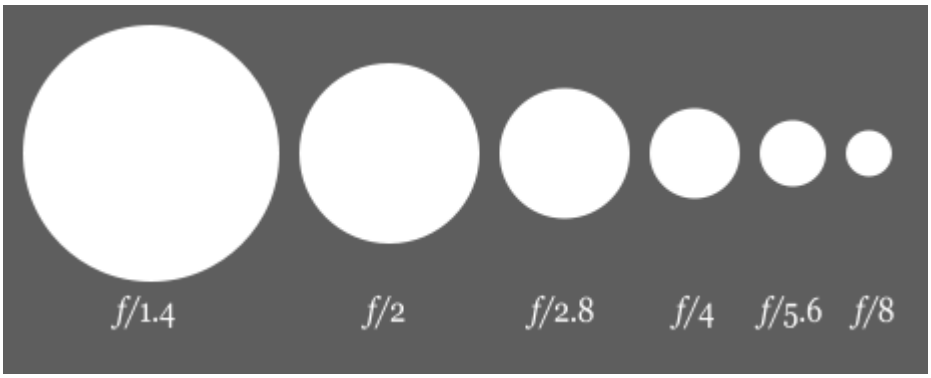

Diagram of decreasing aperture sizes (increasing f-numbers) for "full stop" increments (factor of two aperture area per stop)

f/32 - narrow aperture and slow shutter speed

f/5.6 - wide aperture and fast shutter speed

The aperture range of a 50mm lens, f/1.4-f/16