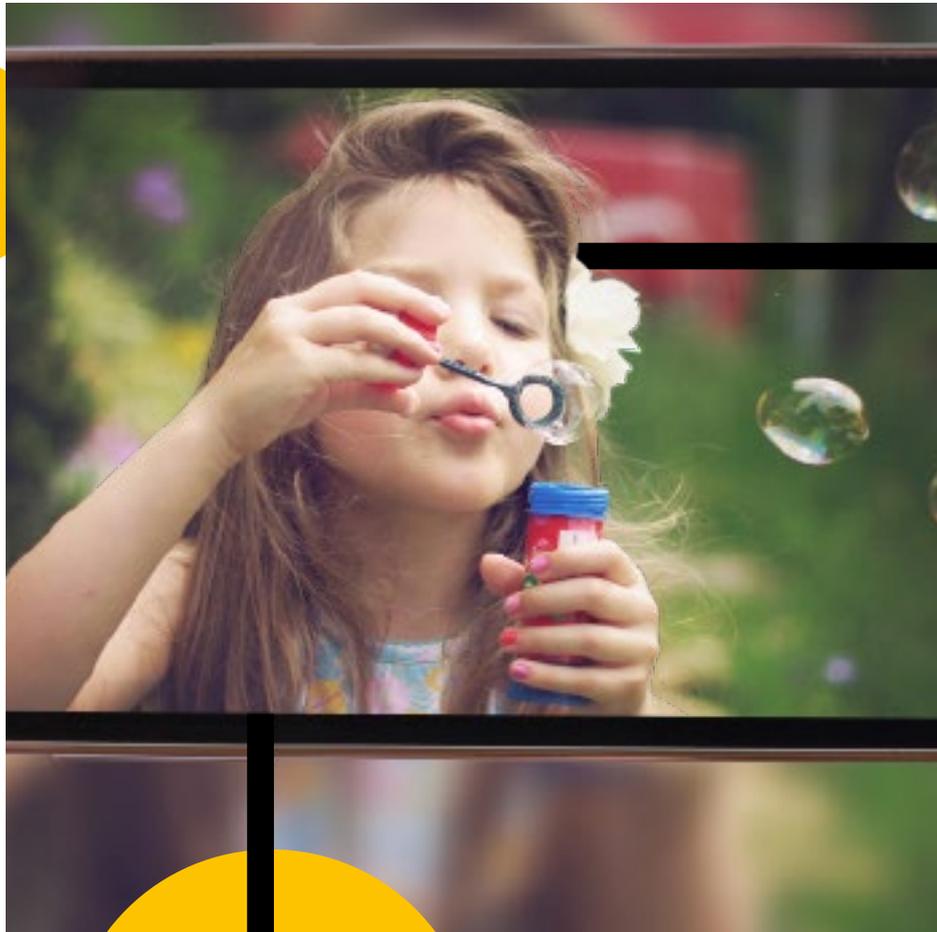


# Smartphone photography

## Natural light



**Photography**  
2 hours  
Digital media

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# Materials

## A smartphone

### Apps for editing and post processing

- Adobe lightroom
- The standard app which comes with your smartphone such as 'Photos' on an iphone

### Smartphone app for advanced smartphone camera features and settings

- Camera+ 2



If you see this icon it means the link is clickable, this will take you to a video tutorial or website needed for the workshop

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# Overview



Smartphone photography presents the narrative of our lives through images. It's how we see the world around us. It gives us the ability to capture and share amazing high quality photos with a camera that we carry with us, every day of our lives.

During this workshop you will gain the skills and knowledge to produce high quality, creative images that will take your photographs to a whole new level.

## Natural light

Natural light photography uses the sun as a light source. The available light from the sun varies with the time of day. A sunny day provides full illumination, while an overcast day may afford texture and nuance to a photographer.

Using natural light indoors effectively is challenging but rewarding. It's important to learn to see indoor natural light in photography. No matter how many windows you have in your home you have good light. You just have to learn to see it.

Once you learn to see the light, you need to figure out how to use it to draw the viewer into your images. You can use light to change the mood of the image as well as really make your subject pop.

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# Resources

## Tips and guidance

[canva.com/learn/beginners-guide-natural-light-use-take-great-photos](https://canva.com/learn/beginners-guide-natural-light-use-take-great-photos)

[expertphotography.com/12-tips-natural-light-portrait-photography](https://expertphotography.com/12-tips-natural-light-portrait-photography)

## Photographers using natural light effectively

[stevemccurry.com](https://stevemccurry.com)

[viewbug.com/blog/natural-light-portraits-photo-contest-finalists](https://viewbug.com/blog/natural-light-portraits-photo-contest-finalists)

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# Activity one



Start by taking ten portraits of the people you live with, or your pet, or anything important to you (it can be an inanimate object) by using natural light.

## Top tips

### 1. It is all about the windows and doors

You'll want to get to know the light that comes through them. Sometimes it floods the room softly. Other times it beams in, bouncing off the walls and floor. Soft light will add a soft glow, and harsh light will give a dramatic or moody look. Take note of what kind of light enters each room throughout the day. The colour of light also changes during the day. It has a warmer look at sunrise and sunset. During midday, it has a cooler or neutral colour. Use this to add different effects to your photos.

### 2. Turn off the lights

Natural light doesn't like competition. Electric lights can affect your white balance. This is because the colour of light varies with the source. Skin tones can look odd when artificial light mixes with natural light. The easiest way to fix this problem is by turning off all electric lights.

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## Activity one

### (continued)

#### 3. Place your subject close to the window

Place your subject a foot or two away from the light source. This way you'll make the best use of the natural light, and avoid the harsh contrasts that can be created by being too close to the window/door. Try backlit, side lit, and full light by having your subject\ model face different angles to the window.

#### 4. Use the curtains

Use curtains or blinds to help diffuse harsh light. When the sun is beaming into the room, the light can blow out your photos. Pulling the curtains can soften the light and help with proper exposure.

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## Activity two



Use either the app your smartphone provides, such as 'Photos' for Iphone or an application like Adobe Lightroom for mobile to process your captured images.

- Remember to experiment! It is your creative right to do what you want with your photos. play around with the various tools and effects until you begin to develop a visual language that appeals to you.
- It is completely up to you if you want to take the minimal approach and let your composition do the talking, or if you want to give your photo a stylistic edge by really playing around with it in the retouching stage, such as the colours or the contrast.

### Resources

[shopmoment.com/momentist/lightroom-mobile-4-tips-for-editing-photos-on-your-phone](https://shopmoment.com/momentist/lightroom-mobile-4-tips-for-editing-photos-on-your-phone)

[digital-photography-school.com/editing-portraits-adobe-lightroom-mobile](https://digital-photography-school.com/editing-portraits-adobe-lightroom-mobile)

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# Further development

Once you are comfortable with shooting portraits using natural light, start to consider and experiment with artificial light sources:

- What effect does a certain artificial light have on your subject in comparison to natural light?
- Is it possible to combine natural/ambient light with artificial light sources? What are the results?



Ravensbourne Outreach tutors and students have produced a new series of online projects and courses to help you stay creative at home

If you'd like to find out more please visit our website [makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk](http://makeit.ravensbourne.ac.uk) or email us at [outreach@rave.ac.uk](mailto:outreach@rave.ac.uk)

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