# GUIDES TO 'PROPER' PHOTOGRPAHY

## Exposure Compensation dial:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7Yzi7vc5jU

Most cameras now offer a handy extra dial or button to give 'fine control' of the exposure. This dial is typically close to your thumb or easy to reach in the menu.

**What is it for?**

A camera sensor seeks to give a 'safe' exposure on any of the Auto settings. This safe level is normally be fine, BUT it tends towards white being middle grey. Much of the world is not middle grey. So, if you've pointed the camera at a scene that is primarily dark, bringing it up to middle grey will over-expose it. Same with a scene that is primarily bright- it will be under-exposed. Exposure compensation allows you to override that by changing the Exposure Value by between minus 3 and plus 3 stops (usually in small gradations.

**When would I use it? - Examples:**

- If shooting a picture of snow, your camera will tend to rend the snow as grey – so by increasing the EV by 1 or 2 stops it will force white
- If shooting an image with areas of extreme brightness reducing the EV by half or one stop should avoid overblown highlights.
- If shooting large dark areas (such as silhouettes) it will tend to rend as grey so using minus 1 or 2 stops should force black.
- It can also be used in creating a High Dynamic Range shot – where a series of images are taken at different Exposure Values to ensure the darkest areas have detail and the brightest areas are not over exposed. See the separate guide on how this can be done.

**How it works**

Exposure compensation affects how your camera interprets the signal from the light meter. If you set EV -1 your camera will use a faster shutter speed / lower ISO / smaller aperture if you are using any kind of automatic setting.
In manual it just affects the light meter on your screen.
**Therefore beware**! If you are taking a close up with a very wide shutter speed it could change the aperture and this could change the out of focus area – so make sure the aperture is fixed.