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Digital Photography

Digital Camera Parts

Front View

1. **Microphone** – Captures sound if your camera has a video option.
2. **Zoom Lever** – Allows you to adjust the zoom.
3. **Shutter Button** – Press to take the picture.
4. **AF-assist Beam (Autofocus assist Beam)** – Helps the camera auto-focus in low light situations.
5. **Red-Eye Reduction Lamp** – Helps reduce red-eye.
6. **Self-Timer Lamp** – Indicates if the self-timer is activated.
7. **Viewfinder** – Allows you to frame your shot.
8. **Flash** – Illuminates the subject or room with a short burst of light.
9. **Terminal Cover** – Covers the output terminals on your camera.
10. **Lens** – Allows you to capture the image and zoom in and out.

Back View

1. **Power Button** – Allows you to turn the camera on or off.
2. **Viewfinder** – Allows you to frame your shot. *(Not all digital cameras have both a viewfinder and an LCD.)*
3. **LCD** – Allows you to frame your shot or preview the shot after you have taken it.
4. **Tripod Socket** – Allows you to connect your camera to a tripod.
5. **Shooting Mode Dial** – Allows you to select the shooting mode.
6. **Speaker** – Allows you to listen to audio playback and camera function tones.
7. **Controls** – Allows you to access additional camera functions.
8. **Memory Card Slot/Battery Cover** – Covers and protects the battery and memory card.

Note: Icons and features vary among camera types, models, and manufacturers.

Camera Buying Tips

	Point and Shoot	SLR-like	DSLR (Digital Single Lens Reflex)
Megapixels	2-6+	6-8+	8+
Cost	Inexpensive	Mid-Range to Expensive	Expensive
Skill Level	Beginner	Intermediate	Professional
Shutter Lag	Long Delay	Minimal Delay	No Delay
Pros	• Easy to use • Inexpensive • Compact and lightweight	• Advanced features • Good image quality in low-light • Saves in RAW format • Accepts external flashes	• Best image quality in low-light • Interchangeable lens • Little or no noise with high ISO • Advanced features • Professional modes • Accurate viewfinder • Saves in RAW format • Accepts external flashes
Cons	• Poor image quality in low-light • Noise with high ISO	• Noise with high ISO • Not all features of a DSLR are available • Can be expensive	• Large and bulky • Expensive

Note: There are many digital cameras on the market today with a wide array of features. The features mentioned in the chart simply serve as a guideline and may not be available on all models.

Optical vs. Digital Zoom

Optical zoom increases the magnification by changing the focal length of the lens. Digital zoom simply enlarges the area displayed in the viewfinder and makes it appear that you are looking closer at the subject. While Optical zoom maintains the image quality at the full resolution, digital zoom results in loss of image quality.

Because digital zoom does not actually improve image quality, you should not allow the digital zoom rating to play a large role in your buying decision.

Image Stabilization

Many cameras have some type of Image Stabilizing (IS) technology which reduces blur when the camera is not steady. This may also be called Vibration Reduction or Anti-Shake.

There are three type of IS technology:

- **Optical** – hardware in the lens adjusts to compensate for motion. *(This usually produces the best results.)*
- **Sensor Shifting** – the image sensor moves to compensate for motion.
- **Electronic** – sharpens the image electronically like photo editing software.

Image Stabilization technology compensates for camera shake and not the movement of the subject.