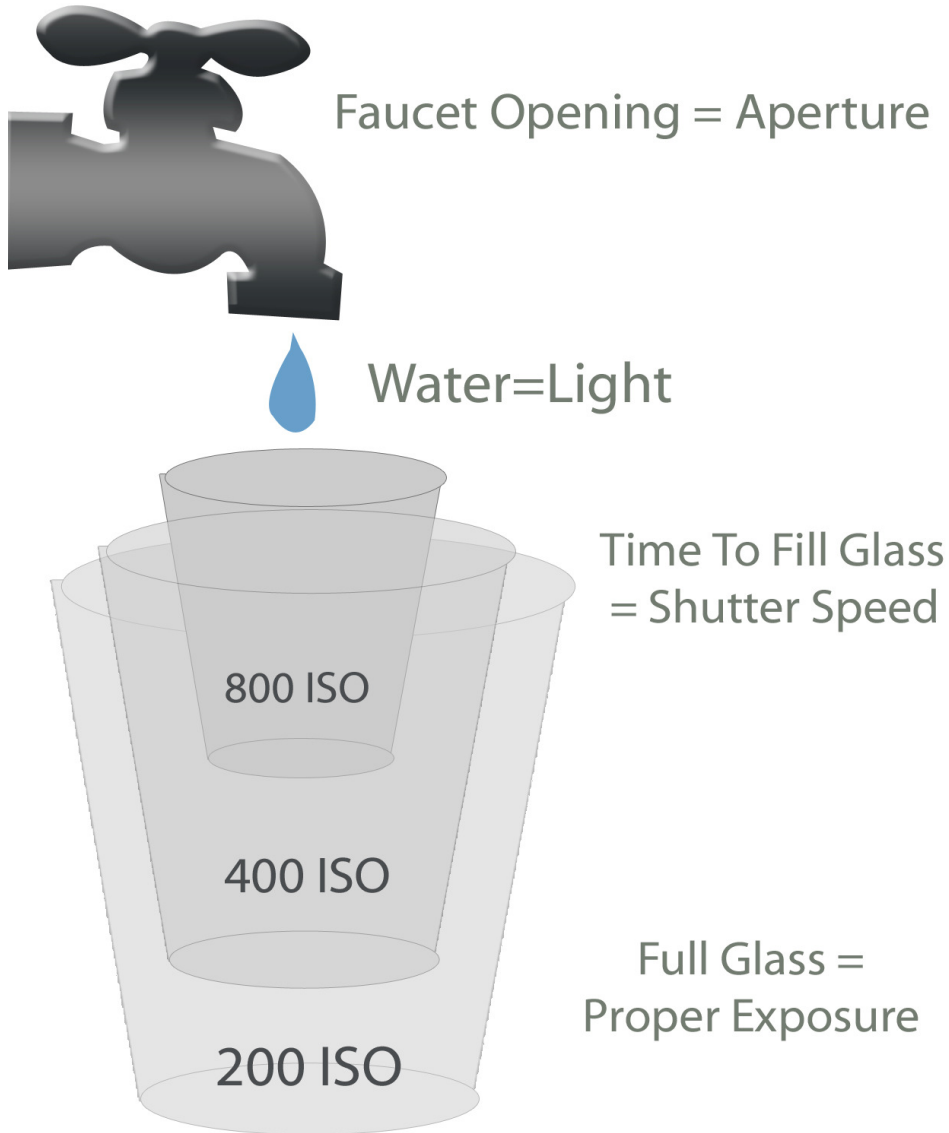


Aperture/Shutter Relationship



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When shooting with an SLR, you need to have a working knowledge of its basic functions. This includes the aperture, shutter speed and film speed.

Aperture is located where the lens mounts to the camera body. You will notice a series of overlapping curtains that produce a small hole. This opening corresponds with the number settings on the lens preceded by the letter "f". For example: f 1.2, 3.5, 5, 7, 8, 11, 16, 22, etc.. (Note: The smaller the aperture, the higher the number assigned to it). The aperture controls how quickly light can enter the camera. It also controls your depth-of-field which will not be discussed here. It works directly with your camera's shutter speed.

Shutter speed is the amount of time the curtain lifts from the sensor allowing light to expose the film or sensor. The number settings will look something like 1/60, 1/100, 1/250, 1/500, 1/1000, 1/2000 (This reads 1/2000 of a second).

Both aperture and shutter speed are dependent on film speed or ISO. **Film speed** indicates how sensitive the film/sensor is to light.

The goal of photography in general is proper exposure of a specific subject, part of a subject, a landscape, or part of a landscape. Proper exposure means the perfect amount of light has exposed the film/sensor and produced a great photo. In this illustration, proper exposure is a full glass.

To properly fill the glass with water (light), we must open the valve (aperture). The less we open the valve, the more time it will take (shutter speed) to fill the glass. The more we open the valve, the less time it will take to fill the glass. If we are shooting at 800 ISO, the film/sensor is more sensitive to light and therefore will take less time to properly expose than if we were shooting at 200 ISO.

This illustration should give you a basic understanding of how aperture, shutter speed, and film speed work together. There are many more functions of each to create unique photos. In general, all three must work together and be properly balanced for a great photo!