

# COMPOSITION & DESIGN

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Lens of Vision  
Wallcoo.com

# Using the Digital Cameras

- ▶ There are 3 basic ways to arrange the elements within your composition.
  1. Physically move objects relative to each other. Only really works with still life photography.
  2. Tell people to move relative to each other or other objects. Only works with people who can hear you and will cooperate with you.
  3. Move ! Usually the most effective way to control your composition is to alter your viewpoint.

# Composition with Ben!

- ▶ <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/photography-foundations-composition/what-all-good-compositions-have?autoAdvance=true&autoSkip=false&autoplay=true&resume=false&u=73721492>
- ▶ <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/photography-foundations-composition/subject-and-background?autoAdvance=true&autoSkip=false&autoplay=true&resume=false&u=73721492>

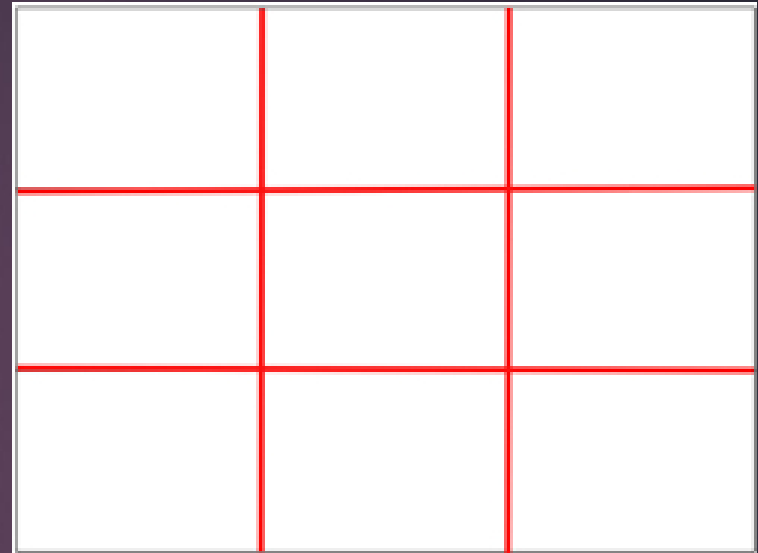
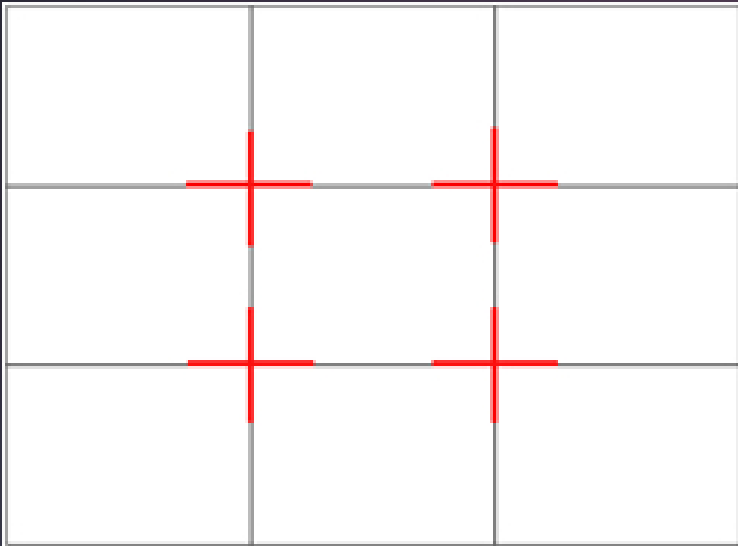
# Moving + zooming changes the shape of things

- ▶ <https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Focal-length-camera-position-depth/80299/95949-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

# Rule of Thirds

- ▶ The most well know principle of photographic composition is the '**Rule of Thirds**'.
  - ▶ The basic principle behind the rule of thirds is to imagine breaking an image down into thirds (both horizontally and vertically) so that you have 9 parts.

# Rule of Thirds

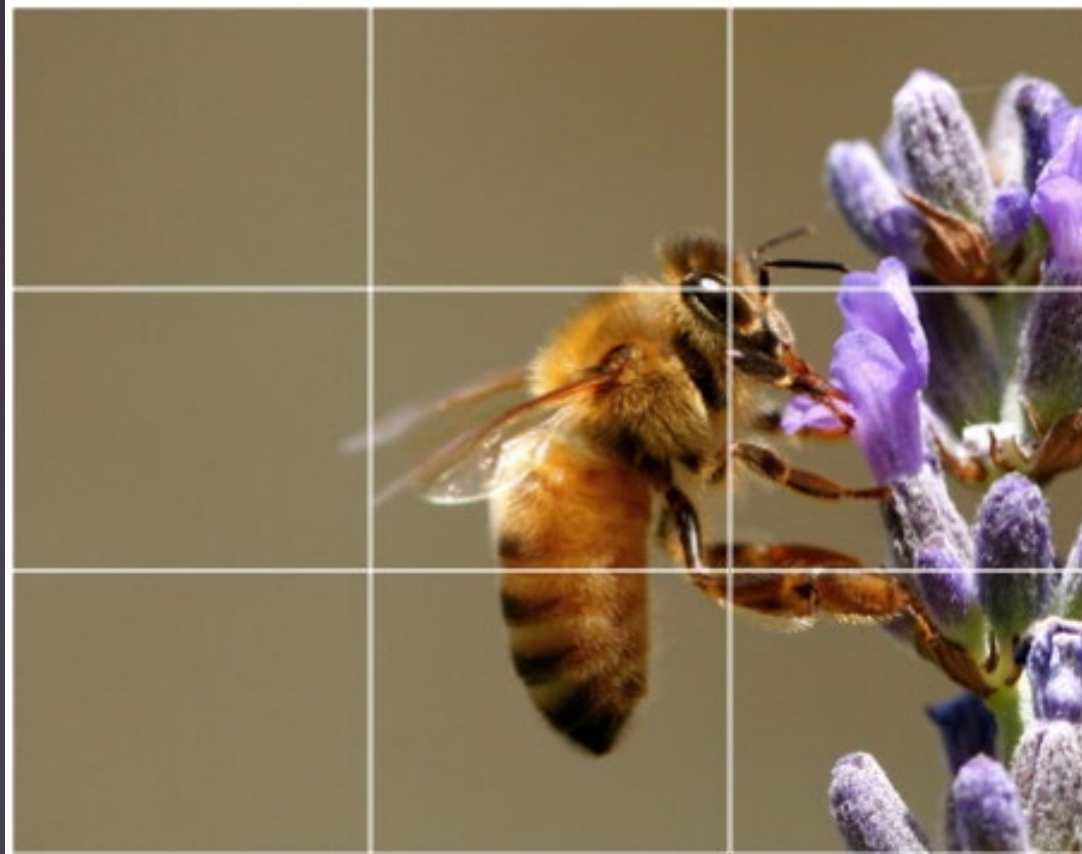


With this grid in mind the 'rule of thirds' now identifies four important parts of the image that you should consider placing points of interest in as you frame your image.

# Rule of Thirds

- ▶ The theory is that if you place points of interest in the intersections or along the lines that your photo becomes more balanced and will enable a viewer of the image to interact with it more naturally.

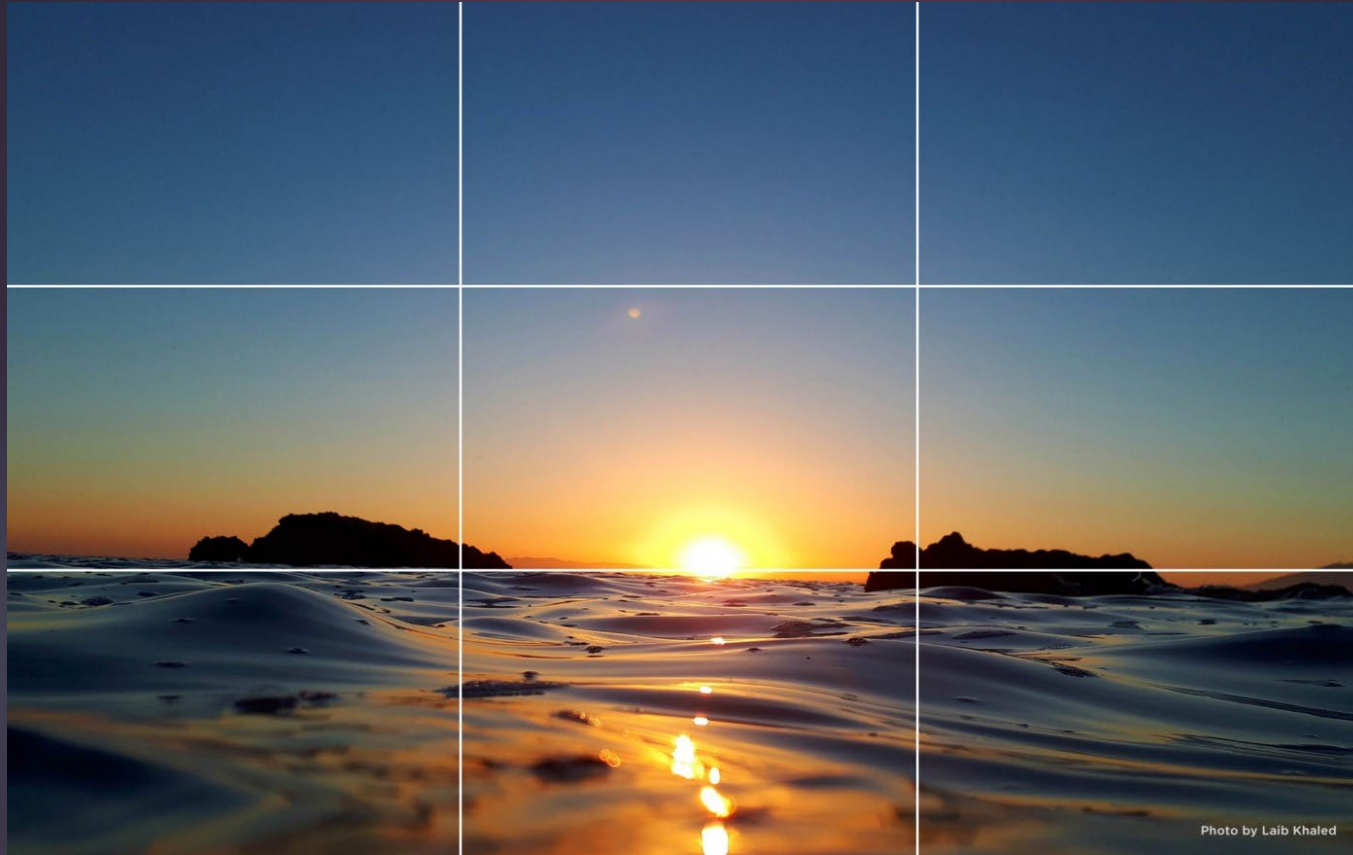
# Rule of Thirds



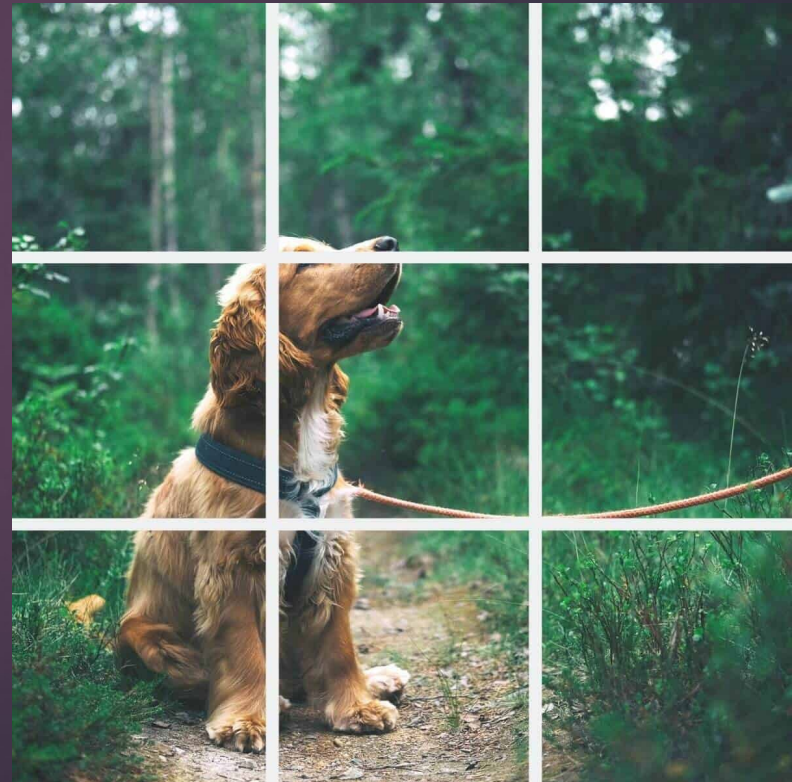
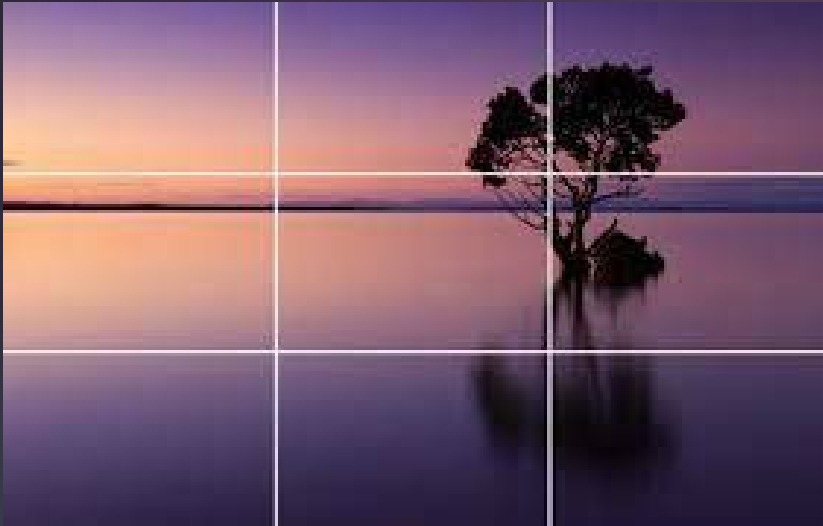
The above picture of the bee where the bee's eye is becomes the point of focus



# Rule of Thirds - Landscapes



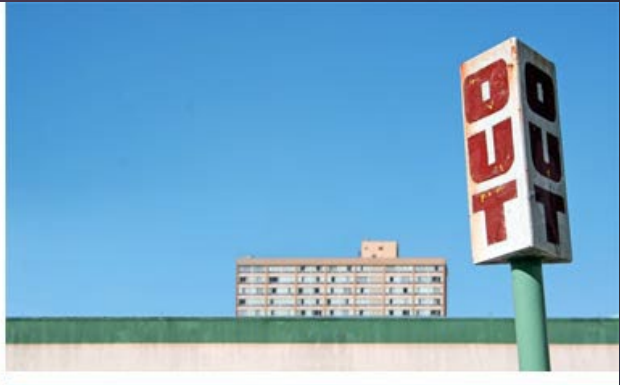
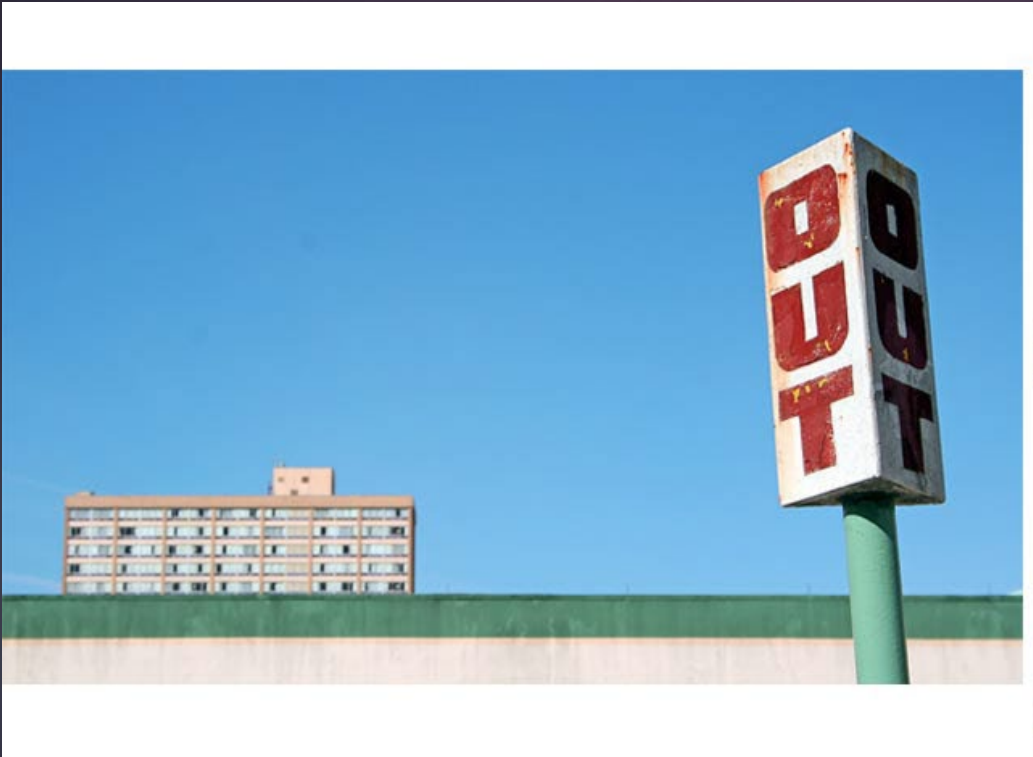
A good technique for landscape shots is to position horizons along one of the horizontal lines also as done with the following shot



# Balance

- ▶ **Balance** is a compositional technique that places elements within a frame so that the objects are of equal visual weight.
- ▶ When different parts of a photo command your attention equally, perfect **balance** is achieved.
- ▶ Balance can be achieved using:
  - ▶ Colour
  - ▶ Tone
  - ▶ Shapes/forms
  - ▶ Context

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- ▶ <https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Balance/80299/95931-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

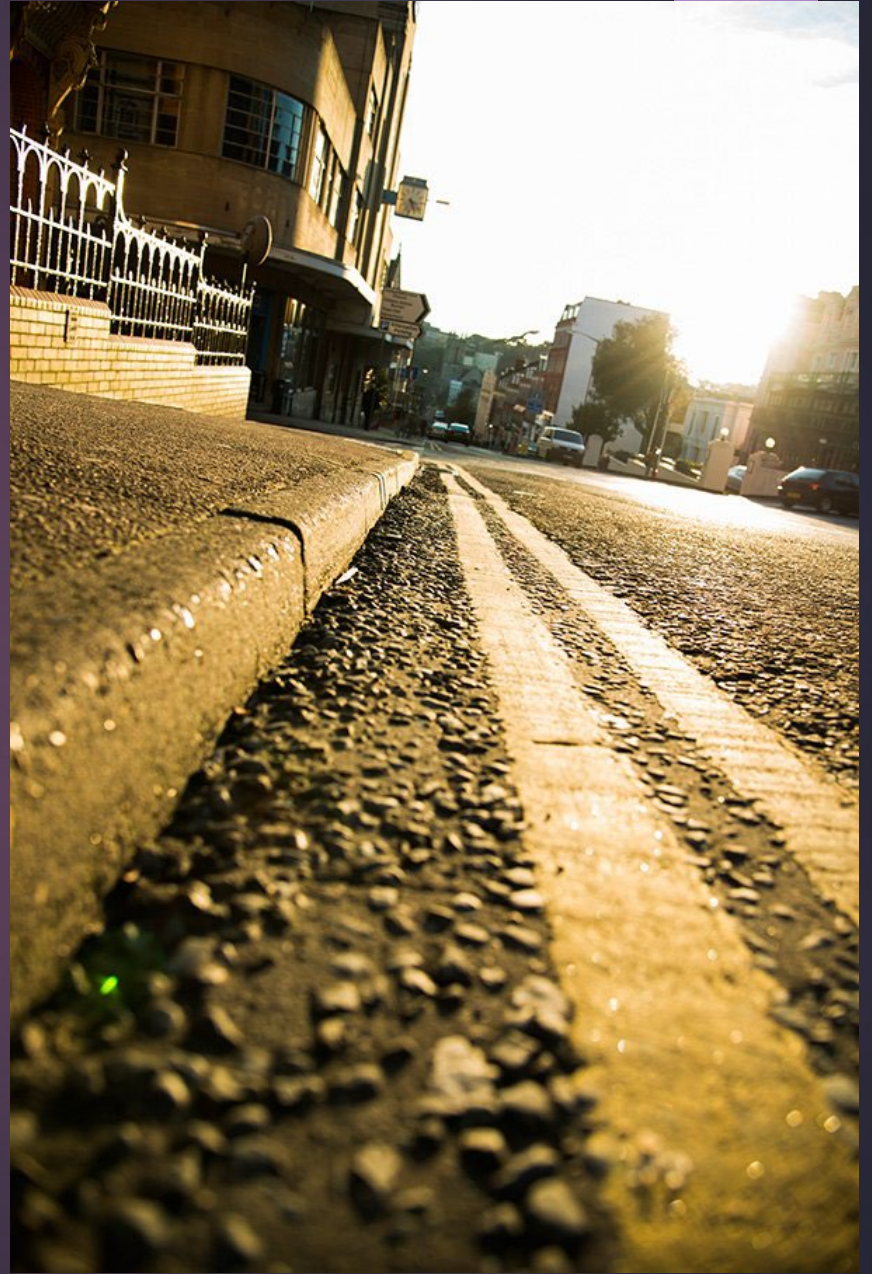





# Point of View

- ▶ In relation to **photography**, '**point of view**' refers to the position the camera is in when viewing a scene.





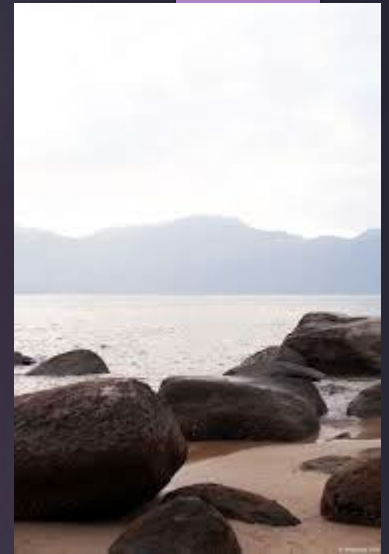



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- ▶ <https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Point-view/80299/95932-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

# Simplicity

- ▶ The easiest way to do this is to close in on your subject, excluding as much of the surroundings as possible. Try and include only the elements that make your image stronger.
- ▶ The more technical method of achieving **simplicity** involves focusing on the subject while ensuring the background is unfocused.

# Simplicity





<https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Simplicity/80299/95933-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

# Framing a Subject

- ▶ **Framing** is the technique of drawing attention to the subject of your image by blocking other parts of the image with something in the scene.



# Benefits of Framing

- 1) giving the photo context - for example framing a scene with an archway can tell you something about the place you are by the architecture of the archway or including some foliage in the foreground of a shot can convey a sense of being out in nature.
- 2) Giving images a sense of depth and layers (in essence framing a shot generally puts something in the foreground which adds an extra dimension to the shot).

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3. leading the eye towards your main focal point (some 'frames' can draw your photo's viewer into the picture just by their shape).

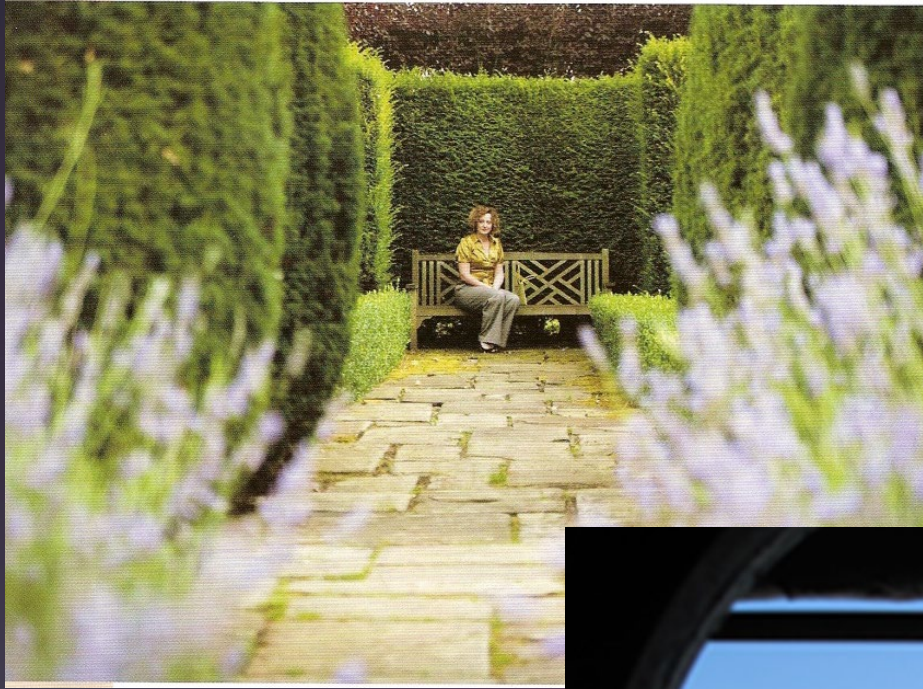
Some also believe that a frame can not only draw the eye into a picture but that it keeps it there longer - giving a barrier between your subject and the outside of the shot.

# Framing a subject

4. Intriguing your viewer. Sometimes it's what you can't see in an image that draws you into it as much as (if not more than) what you can see in the picture. Clever framing that leaves those viewing your image wondering a little or imagining what is behind your frame can be quite effective (get it wrong and it can also be quite annoying!).
5. <https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Framing/80299/95989-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>



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# Lines

- ▶ The lines that can be found in images are very powerful elements that with a little practice can add dynamic impact to a photograph in terms of mood as well as how they lead an image's viewer into a photo.
- ▶ **Four types of lines are:**
  - ▶ **Horizontal**
  - ▶ **Vertical**
  - ▶ **Diagonal**
  - ▶ **Leading Lines**

# Lines – Horizontal Lines



- ▶ Horizons should generally not be placed in the middle of your frame. This leaves an image feeling unsettled compositionally. A much more effective technique is to place them in the upper or lower third of your frame.



# Lines – Vertical Lines

- ▶ **Vertical lines** have the ability to convey a variety of different moods in a photograph ranging from **power** and **strength** (think of skyscrapers) to growth (think of trees).
- ▶ As horizontal lines can be accentuated by shooting in horizontal format vertical lines can be used very effectively by swapping the way you hold your camera into a vertical framing. This lengthens the vertical subject further which can emphasize it's **height**.



# Lines – Diagonal Lines

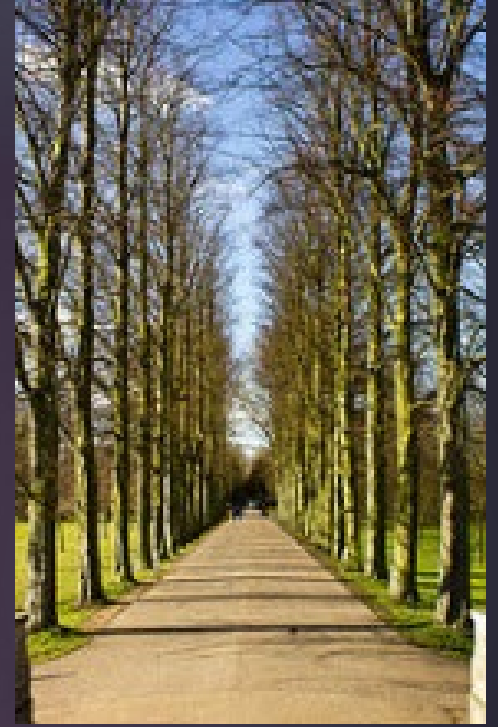
- ▶ **Diagonal lines generally work well to draw the eye of an image's viewer through the photograph.**
- ▶ They create points of interest as they intersect with other lines and often give images depth by suggesting perspective.
- ▶ **They can also add a sense of action to an image and add a dynamic looks and feel.**



# Lead-in Lines

A lead-in line can be a road, wall, fence, or row of trees that is used to attract a viewer into the picture.

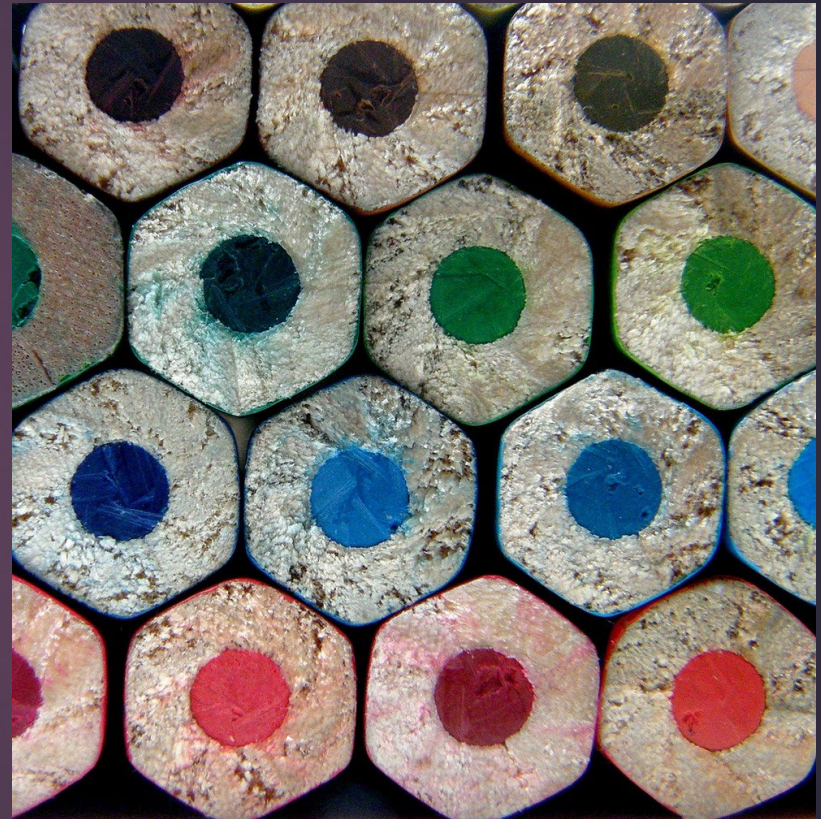




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- ▶ <https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Lines/80299/95940-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

# Patterns

- ▶ Life is filled with patterns - many of which we overlook due to the busyness of our days - however once you get an eye for spotting them (and it takes being intentional and some practice) you'll be amazed by what you see and you'll wonder why you didn't incorporate them into your photography before.

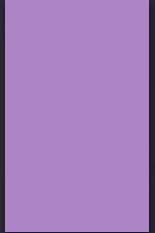


# Emphasizing Patterns:



# Breaking Patterns





<https://www.lynda.com/Photoshop-tutorials/Rule-threes/80299/95946-4.html?srchtrk=index%3a2%0alinktypeid%3a2%0aq%3aben+long+composition%0apage%3a1%0as%3arelevance%0asa%3atrue%0aproducttypeid%3a2>

# Colour



# Negative Space

- ▶ Negative space is another technique that can be used to give your picture an entirely different atmosphere.
- ▶ The absence of content does not mean the absence of interest. In fact, negative space often adds interest as it can place a stronger emphasis on the subject and it can evoke emotions effectively. Negative space brings clarity to a photograph but it also leaves a nice area that can be filled with text or boxes without taking away from the object in focus.

