Canon T7 / Nikon D3500

Beginner stills cameras. Auto is training wheels. Av or A (aperture) is the mode we use most.

Cheat sheet

1. Mode dial: Av or A for portraits. M only when you mean to.

2. ISO: 100–400 in sun. Raise it only when the photo is dark.

3. Aperture: f/2.8–f/4 blurs the background. f/8–f/11 keeps more sharp.

4. Shutter: 1/250 for people standing. 1/500 or faster for sports.

5. Card: empty card in the slot. Format it in the camera.

6. Lens: line up the dots. Click it on. Never force the mount.

Beginner recipe

- Start at ISO 400, f/5.6, 1/250. Change one setting if the picture is wrong.
- Dark? Add light before you crank ISO.
- Bright and washed out? Lower ISO or close the aperture.