



## Camera Buying Guide Quick Reference Handout

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### Types of cameras

- The first thing to know is what types of cameras are out there to better discern which one might fit your need because there are various categories to choose from.

#### DSLRs

- (Digital Single Lens Reflex) are the 'big' cameras with a mirror inside that reflects the image you see through the optical viewfinder when you put your eye to it.
- DSLRs hold a speed advantage, meaning you can shoot in burst at higher speeds, though their bulky bodies make them less portable, just like hefty lenses can.
- Mostly Canon and Nikon, ranging in expertise, from entry-level to professional.

#### Mirrorless

- These cameras look a lot like DSLRs, but are often slimmer and lighter because they don't have the mirror mechanism inside that DSLRs do.
- They use electronic viewfinders, and in some cases, don't have them at all.
- They have their own lens mounts, and DSLR lenses can work by attaching an adapter.
- Mirrorless cameras come from Sony, Panasonic, Fujifilm, Olympus, Canon and Nikon.

#### Point-and-shoot cameras

- Highly portable, they are more simple and straightforward to use, letting you slip them in a pocket and pull them out.
- They rely heavily on the rear LCD screen to show you what the images will look like.
- Some point-and-shoot cameras have more complex settings to adjust composition, like full manual and RAW options.

#### Instant cameras

- These cameras take a digital snapshot, while also allowing you to instantly output a print on film housed in the camera itself.
- Fujifilm's Instax camera line has also become a popular standard for their easy to use, high quality output.

#### Action cameras

- Small, nimble, and durable, action cams can capture high quality footage of any outdoor activities you take part in.
- They are easy to mount with the right gear and accessories, letting you effectively "wear" the camera on your person.



## **What do you want to use your camera for?**

You may already have a good sense of what you would want to capture with a camera or what situations you would use one most in. Cameras can be very versatile so consider your most common use cases to make an informed choice.

### **Travel**

- Cameras have larger image sensors than phones do, which is why photos will often look a little crisper and more detailed in comparison.
- All camera types apply to travel, so it really depends on what you feel will fit best with your planned activities and destination.

### **Vlogging**

- Choosing the right type of camera really depends on what you are trying to capture most.
- Mirrorless and action cameras are the most popular options for vloggers.

### **Food-tography**

- Whether a hobby or part of a business, better cameras can bring out more of the detail and colour that make dishes or drinks look appetizing.

### **Wildlife and nature**

- Any camera can capture animals and nature, be it your own pets or exotic animals you come across while travelling.

### **Making movies**

- Anyone looking to create compelling video content could do it with a DSLR, mirrorless or action camera.

### **Camera packages and accessories**

- Some 'body-only' cameras don't come with a lens, usually applicable to DSLRs and mirrorless?
- The term "lens kit" or "kit lens" refers to a camera body that comes with a lens in the box.
- Accessories could be a tripod or mount, gimbal, bag, microphone, flash attachment or memory card.
- For the GoPro and other action cameras, there are mounting aids, wearable straps, protective cases or mod attachments to support your content creation.