

Shutter Speed Cheat Sheet

Hand-Holding Minimum

If you simply want to take a photo that is in focus while hand-holding the camera, choose a Shutter Speed that is equal to (or greater than) the focal length of your lens. For instance, if you are using a 50mm lens, then your minimum shutter speed would be 1/50. Take note that neither you nor your subject can move during the exposure.

Slight Motion

If either you or your subject are moving slightly, double your current focal length to find your minimum shutter speed. If you are using a 100mm lens for example, your shutter speed should be 1/200 or greater.

Moderate Motion

Faster motion requires shorter exposure times. Should either you or subject be moving briskly then start with triple your focal length. For example, if you're shooting with a 200mm lens, then your minimum shutter speed would be 1/600.

Fast Motion

When wanting to freeze really fast motion, then multiply your focal length by **four** to find your minimum shutter speed. For example if you were shooting with a 135mm lens, then the slowest shutter speed you would want to try would be 1/600. *(Always round up on the shutter speed when looking for your minimum setting.)*

Stopping Motion ... No Matter What

If you simply want to freeze action (from you or your subject) at any cost, simply dial in 1/2500 of a second. Very few things on this planet can move that fast.

NOTE: Keep in mind that these settings are mere guidelines. Always check your image before you leave a scene. There is nothing worse than getting home and finding all your action photos slightly blurry.