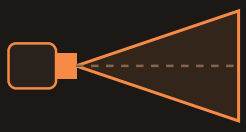
Lenses: focal lengths and uses

Focal lengths below are in millimeters, using full-frame cameras as a reference. Field of view changes with sensor size.



14–24 mm · Ultra-wide

Architecture, landscapes and tight interiors; watch edge stretching.



24–35 mm · Wide

Reporting, travel and subjects in their environment.



35–50 mm · Standard-ish

Everyday photography, natural storytelling and environmental portraits.



70–135 mm · Short telephoto

Portraits, details and background separation at suitable distances.



200–600 mm · Long telephoto

Sports, wildlife and distant subjects.

Diagrams illustrate relative field of view; they do not show physical lens dimensions.

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Lens types and selection

Focal lengths below are in millimeters, using full-frame cameras as a reference. Field of view changes with sensor size.

Prime

Fixed focal length; often offers wide-aperture options and simpler designs, depending on model.

Zoom

Variable focal length without changing lenses; flexibility for events and reporting.

Macro

Close focusing and high magnification for details; check reproduction ratio.

Tilt-shift

Controls focus plane and helps correct converging architectural lines.

Fisheye

Very wide field of view with intentional distortion for creative effects.

Cinema

May offer geared, marked controls and video-oriented features; not a separate focal length.

How to choose?

Consider available distance, subject, field of view and light. Check mount compatibility and sensor coverage. Perspective depends on camera-to-subject distance; focal length controls framing from the same position.

Practical exercise

Photograph a subject from one position with different lenses, then move to match subject size in the frame. Compare perspective and backgrounds.

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