

# PHOTOGRAPHY

## Exercise: The Rule of Thirds

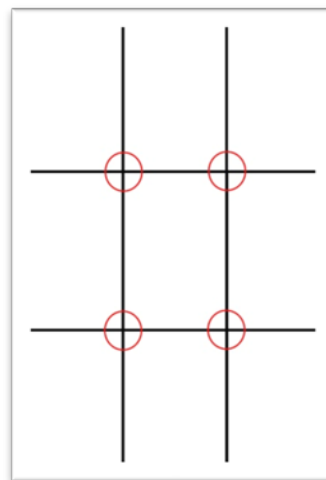
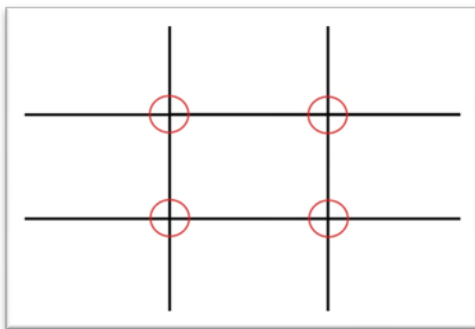
The rule of thirds is likely the easiest compositional principle for beginning photographers can apply to take better pictures.

**Put simply, by applying the rule of thirds you will take better pictures.**

If you try the rule of thirds, you will transition from taking snapshots to composing photographs. However, do not think this rule is so important that it cannot be broken. Not all photographs must follow this rule. Don't be afraid to break the rule once and a while!

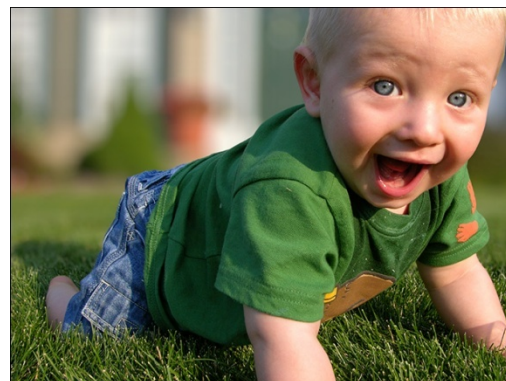
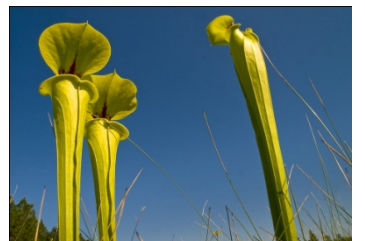
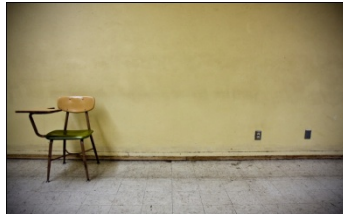
The **rule of thirds** states that if you divide a photograph vertically into thirds and horizontally into thirds then

- the point of interest within the photograph should lie at the one of the intersection points
- horizontal and vertical elements should lay along the lines



Following the rule of thirds is an easy way to compose a photograph that is pleasing to the eye. Most digital cameras have the option to superimpose a grid on the LCD screen to help you even further with applying this rule.

The next page has examples illustrating how the rule of thirds is applied in photographic compositions.



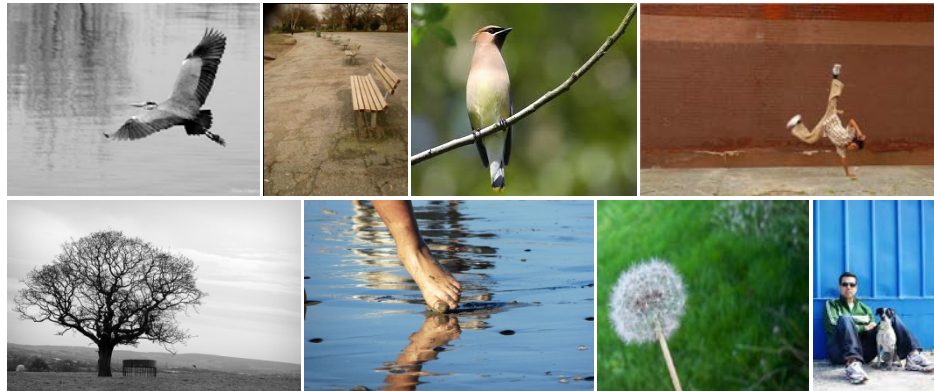


## Applying the rule of thirds effectively

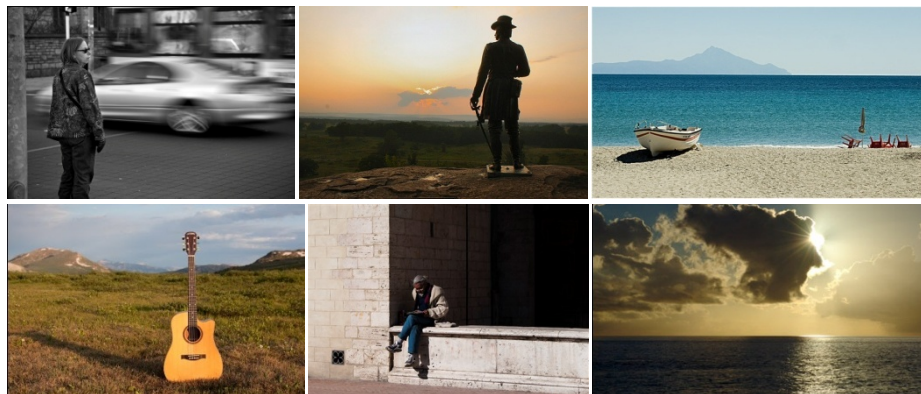
When applying the rule of thirds, ask yourself "What are the points of interest in this shot? Where am I intentionally placing them?"

Here are some guidelines to help you apply the rule of thirds.

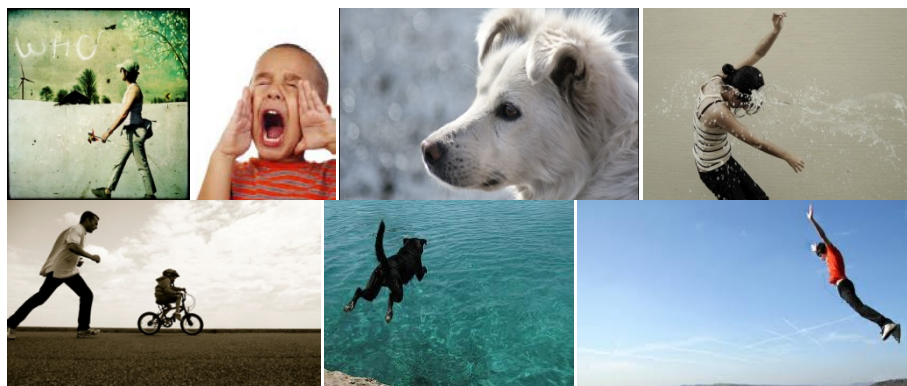
- Keep your background simple and uncluttered and place the focus on one of the intersection points.



- Place vertical elements along either of the vertical guidelines and horizontal elements along either of the horizontal guidelines. If your shot includes a horizon, place the horizon on either of the horizontal lines.



- If your subject is moving or facing a particular direction leave room in the frame for the subject to 'move' into – this is called **leading the subject**.



## Mini-project: Rule of Thirds

This mini-project has four parts.

You will choose some of these photos to be included in your final portfolio. Try to create photographic images that generate curiosity and discussion.

In this mini-project you will experiment with the rule of thirds.

1. Compose your photograph so that the focus is placed on one of the **intersection points**. Keep your image clear of clutter. Choose your best photograph and attach it here.

2. Compose your photograph so that there is one dominant **vertical element** placed along either of the vertical guidelines. Keep your image clear of clutter. Choose your best photograph and attach it here.



3. Compose your photograph so that there is one dominant **horizontal element** placed along either of the vertical guidelines. Keep your image clear of clutter. Choose your best photography and attach it here.

4. Compose your photograph so that your subject is moving or facing particular direction. Leave room in the frame to **lead the subject**. Keep your image clear of clutter. Choose your best photograph and attach it here.