

iPhone CAMERA SECRETS for BETTER PHOTOS

5 Simple Tricks Most People
Never Learn



Small changes.
Surprisingly better photos.

[CAROLINEMARYAN.COM](https://carolinemaryan.com)

Welcome!

Your iPhone is more powerful than you think!

Most people assume they need a better phone to take better photos.

Usually, they don't.

What makes the biggest difference is learning a few simple tools already built into your iPhone camera.

And the good news?

You do NOT need to become “technical” to use them.

Inside this guide, I'll show you 5 simple tricks that can instantly improve your photos — without confusing photography language or overwhelm.

These are the same kinds of tips I teach students every day who simply want photos that better match what they see and feel in real life.

Let's start simple.

***You might be surprised
how quickly your photos start to change.***

[CAROLINEMARYAN.COM](https://carolinemaryan.com)

©2026 Caroline Maryan. All rights reserved.

Secret #1: The Grid Lines Trick

One tiny setting can instantly help your photos feel more balanced and polished.

Grid lines are especially helpful for:

- keeping horizons straight
- placing subjects naturally
- improving travel photos
- creating cleaner compositions

Where to find it

Settings → Camera → Grid

Once turned on, faint lines appear on your screen while taking photos.

Quick Tip

Try placing the horizon on the top or bottom grid line instead of directly in the middle.

That small adjustment often creates a much stronger image.

Mini Exercise

Take:

1. One photo with the horizon centered
2. One using the grid lines

Which one feels more balanced?

Secret #2: The Tap-to-Focus Trick

Your iPhone does not always focus where YOU want it to.
It guesses.
And sometimes it guesses wrong.
That's why tapping the screen before taking a photo can instantly improve sharpness and clarity.

What to do

Before taking your photo:

1. Tap the part of the screen you want to look sharp
2. A small yellow box appears
3. Your iPhone now focuses on that area

That tiny step gives you much more control over your photo. It's one of the easiest ways to start taking photos on purpose instead of by accident.

Why It Matters

If you don't tap first:

- faces may look soft
- the background may become sharper than the subject
- your camera may focus on the wrong thing entirely

Quick Tip

When photographing people, tap directly on the eyes or face.

Secret #2 (continued): The Tap-to-Focus Trick

Mini Exercise

Photograph the same object twice:

- once without tapping
- once after tapping the subject

Zoom in and compare the sharpness.

You'll start noticing how much more intentional your photos feel.

Secret #3: The Brightness Slider Most People Miss

Once you tap to focus, a tiny sun icon appears beside the focus box.

Most people never realize they can slide that icon to brighten or darken the image before taking the photo.

It's one of the fastest ways to improve your photos instantly.

What to do

1. Tap the subject you want in focus
2. A small sun icon appears
3. Slide your finger up or down to brighten or darken the image

That tiny adjustment can completely change your photo.

Quick Tip

When photographing people outdoors, try slightly brightening the image so faces don't look too dark.

Mini Exercise

Photograph the same subject:

- once normally
- once brighter
- once darker

Notice how the mood changes.

You're already making creative choices.

Secret #4: The Hidden Magic of Live Photos

Live Photos record a tiny moment before and after you press the shutter button. That means your iPhone is recording more than a single frozen image.

And sometimes?

The best moment happens just after you tap the button.

Why This Is So Helpful

Live Photos are wonderful for:

- kids
- pets
- travel moments
- movement
- candid expressions
- moments that happen quickly

You can often find a better smile, expression, or movement after the photo is taken. Your iPhone even picks what it thinks is the best moment. And you can change it.

Quick Tip

Live Photos can help you choose a better expression later — especially with children.

Secret #4 (continued): The Hidden Magic of Live Photos

You May Want to Turn Live Photos Off When:

- photographing still subjects
- saving storage space
- taking many photos quickly

Mini Exercise

Take a Live Photo of:

- someone laughing
- a pet moving
- a waving hand
- a busy travel moment

Then:

1. Open the photo afterward
2. Hold your finger on the image
3. Watch the tiny moment come to life

You may notice details you completely missed in real time.

Secret #5: Burst Mode: How People Capture the Perfect Moment

Ever wonder how people capture:

- the exact jump
- the perfect laugh
- the split-second expression
- the dog shaking its ears
- the child running toward the camera?

Often, they're not taking one photo.

They're using Burst Mode.

What Burst Mode Does

Burst Mode takes many photos very quickly while you hold the shutter button. That gives you multiple moments to choose from later.

Instead of hoping for perfect timing, you're no longer guessing. You're capturing the whole moment.

But on the newer iPhones, there's a trick to using it!

Secret #5: Burst Mode: How People Capture the Perfect Moment (continued)

How to Use It

On most newer iPhones:

1. Open the Camera app
2. Press and slide the shutter button slightly to the left
3. Keep holding while the action happens
4. Release when finished

Your iPhone captures a rapid series of photos automatically. (You don't need to hold it for long! The iPhone is fast!)

Quick Tip

Burst Mode works beautifully for:

- kids
- pets
- sports
- travel moments
- moving subjects
- candid laughter
- group photos

Secret #5: Burst Mode: How People Capture the Perfect Moment (continued)

Mini Exercise

Photograph:

- a walking pet
- someone spinning
- a child running
- waves at the beach
- someone tossing a ball in the air

Then scroll through the burst and choose your favorite moment.

You may discover expressions and movements you never could have captured with a single photo.

***Sometimes, the perfect moment is gone...
in an instant!***



Ready to take the next step?

Your iPhone camera is packed with helpful features, but finding them and figuring out how to use them can be frustrating.

That's why I created **iPhone Photography Made Easy**: to save you time and help you get better photos faster.

You'll discover the settings, features, and practical techniques that make the biggest difference, helping you capture sharper, more eye-catching photos of everyday life, family, flowers, travel, and more.

Let's have fun and make iPhone photography easy!

 **Learn More About iPhone**
Photography Made Easy