

Digital Photography Terms

PIXEL: Short for Picture Element

A digital square of color that holds digital information.

Images are composed of many individual pixels, each having a specific color. When enough of these colored pixels are together, the eye merges the pixels into an image.

RESOLUTION

The fineness of detail in a digital image, often expressed as the number of pixels per inch (PPI) in a displayed image.

PPI - Pixels Per Inch - This is a measurement that determines the quality of a digital image.

The more PPI in an image the sharper or finer the details.

DPI - Dots Per Inch - A way resolution is measured for INK JET PRINTERS. DPI is measured by the number of ink dots that are placed on a paper per inch when printing a photo. The more dots that are printed, the finer the detail in the image.

LPI - Lines Per Inch - A way that resolution is measured for LASER PRINTERS. LPI is measured by the number of LINES that are placed on the paper per inch when printing. The more lines printed per inch the finer the detail.

DIGITAL MEMORY

Space available on a device for storing information, files and images.

Forms of digital memory: phones, memory cards, jump drive, external hard drive.

Memory Sizes (from smallest to largest)

bit - smallest size

Byte - small size

Kilobyte - small. Usually used for online viewing only.

Megabyte - Medium size. Usually the size of a photo file, word docs, Power Points.

Gigabyte - Large size. Usually used to store lots of photos / documents. Found on computers, external hard drives, memory cards, and flash drives.

Terabyte - Largest memory sizes. Usually used to back up hard drives, and used for servers for large companies.

FILE FORMATS - Different ways to save a file or image.

From lowest to highest quality

GIF - Graphic Image File - Quality is good only for Internet and on screen use. Low print quality.

JPEG/JPG - Joint Photographers Expert Group

Medium in size. Image information is compressed, so loss of detail in images are common. Good: small file size, is a universal file format, with decent print quality.

RAW (NEF / CR2)

Largest file size, best quality, NO image information compression. All the details are retained. Excellent for printing large, high quality images. Need image editing software to open and edit.