

B B C BITESIZE

Aperture controls two things: your exposure and your depth of field.

It works a little bit like an eye, and controls how much light is going into the camera. So if you think of it like your eye on a really sunny day, you're more than likely to squint and let less light into the camera.

It's the same with your aperture, you need to make your aperture really small, so not much light gets into the camera. So that will be I'd say F22, or F11.

Whereas if it's a really dark night, you're more likely to open your eyes more, to let more light in. It's the same with your aperture. You make the aperture larger so that you could let more light in.

This would be F1.4, or 2.8, because the larger the aperture, the more light being let in, the smaller the F number. And the smaller the aperture, letting less light in, the larger the F number.

There are two ways to control your aperture. On this old camera, it's on the ring of the lens. We are turning it from a large aperture, to a small aperture.

However, with a digital SLR, you're going to be controlling your aperture on the dial either near the shutter here, or on this camera, on the back of your camera here. So as you can see on your screen, you can go up an aperture, and down.

Getting your head round aperture, is one of the key things that you need to learn about photography. So have a play around and experiment, and then you'll be able to get the exposure and the depth of field that you want.