Metering modes
Meter readings

• Your meter will vary according to the tonality of your image. You will get different readings if your subject is white, grey or black.

• 18% grey is considered to give the best reading.
Meter off the three colours
Metering

• All three gave different meter readings.

• You camera thinks that the world is 18% grey.

• It will underexpose white subjects to make them grey.

• It will overexpose subjects predominantly black, to make them grey.
Spot metering

- Spot metering covers just under four percent of the viewfinder area. It takes a precise exposure reading only at the very centre of the frame and disregards the rest.
Spot metering

• A spot meter is used when there are extremes in the brightness of a scene (high contrast scenes), such as when a subject is back lit or has bright light on it and the background is dark.
Centre weighted

- Center-weighted is the metering system of choice on compact digital cameras that do not offer other metering modes. Currently it is the most common metering system.
Centre weighted

- Exposure metering is averaged over the entire frame with emphasis placed on the central area. Centre-weighted metering is used for general and portrait photography, when it’s important to have the central portion of the scene properly exposed.
Evaluative/Matrix/ESP

- This metering mode will split the entire scene up into small zones/grids in a matrix and measure each zone/grid individually. The entire matrix is then averaged to determine the best exposure (shutter speed and aperture combination). As seen above, the red square would represent the area that would be evaluated.
Evaluative/Matrix/ESP

- It is effective for scenes and subjects that have even lighting.
Partial metering

- Partial metering is similar to spot metering but covers a larger area of the viewfinder, about 13.5 or 9 percent. It is useful for taking portrait photos when the subject is back lit.
Partial metering
Exposure locking

- Point your camera at a subject / scene that is lit the same as your subject, but without the strong backlighting. For the example of someone in front of a window, you could turn 90° and point the camera at a wall. Then lock the auto exposure reading.
Exposure locking

• In many cameras, using the AE-L button also means that you are locking the Auto focus as well. Check that the photo you have taken is the same distance as the one you metered on.
Bracketing

• Use Exposure Compensation when shooting in either Aperture or Shutter Priority.

• Dial in + compensation to let in more light, or dial in – compensation to let in less light.

• Most cameras will allow changes in either 1/2 stops or 1/3 stops.

• When shooting in Manual Mode, just watch your meter indicator as you dial in either more or less exposure
Focusing points
Cross focus points

- Cross focus points help to achieve better focus in areas where the subject has a horizontal and vertical form.
Phase and Contrast detect focusing

Canon compacts
• Canon tends to give cameras the AiAF system, where the image is divided into 9 points (or more) and focus is obtained on one or more of these points.
Contrast and phase autofocus

Contrast detect autofocus

- Autofocus which looks for areas of contrast in the image.
- You can help this system by finding and area where there is a contrast of colours (e.g. white to black)

Phase detect