**DSLR Camera Parts**

1. **Lens Alignment** – Each lens you use will have a similar red dot. It allows you to align, twist and click the lens in place more easily.
2. **Flash Pop Up Button** – Press this to activate the pop up flash. There will be similar buttons on all makes of camera. It is a kind of manual over-ride, useful for fill-in flash etc. If in full auto mode, the **camera** will decide whether or not to use the flash.
3. **Lens Release** – By pressing this in, you allow the lens to be twisted and released. **Note :** Try to change lenses out of dusty areas and try to have the camera switched off. The static produced when the camera is on will attract dust to the sensor.
4. **Mirror** – This mirror allows you to see, through the viewfinder, almost **exactly** what you will photograph by reflecting the image up, and into the eyepiece. It flips up the instant that you press the shutter release and returns once the picture is taken. Never touch the mirror with your fingers and use special cleaning equipment and solutions. Some mirrors can be replaced but it is costly. Any dust on the mirror **will not** appear in your photographs, so if in doubt, leave it alone.
5. **Grip** – Grip that is usually rubberized for more effective handling of the (sometimes cumbersome) digital SLR cameras.
6. **Shutter Release Button** – Without wanting to state the obvious, this **takes** the picture at whatever settings you have made. A half press will start the auto focus and exposure calculations.
7. **Focus Assist Beam** – Most modern Digital SLR ‘s have this now. It illuminates the subject in poor light to assist the auto focus. It will sometimes be used as an indicator for the self-timer function (I.e. it will flash and beep during delay).
8. **Pop Up Flash** –  [Prosumer DSLR ‘s](http://www.all-things-photography.com/semi-professional-dslr/)have a built in flash which, when on full auto, will pop up and fire when required. On the manual settings, you will normally have to activate it via a button (see No. 2) for more creative photography.
9. **Viewfinder** –. In here you will see the focus ring at the center of the image plus most of the other information such as shutter speeds, aperture settings etc.
10. **Diopter Adjustment** – Very handy if you are slightly long or short sighted. As in binoculars, you can adjust the viewfinder to match the difference in your eyes, enabling you to use the camera without your glasses or contact lenses.
11. **Rubber Eye-cup** – This can be removed but is handy for 2 reasons. If you wear glasses, it will protect the lenses from scratching against the camera. Without glasses, it helps the viewfinder to **mold** around your eye and eliminate any surrounding glare.
12. **On/Off Button** – Switches the camera power on and off. If left on, the sleep mode kicks in after a few minutes and you can turn the power on quickly and instantly by pressing the shutter button.
13. **Play Button** – When the camera is switched on, this will display the last image taken on the small screen. Then you can scroll through all the others.
14. **Menu Button** – This will bring up all the internal menu functions on the screen. You scroll through them using the dial and select buttons. See your camera manual for more details of what your camera can do from here.
15. **Screen** – Displays menus and images that have been exposed. When “LV” is selected on some cameras, it will display the image (in real time) that you are looking at like most digital compact “point and shoots”.
16. **Selector/Top Dial** –Normally used to change shutter speeds or aperture settings. Can also be used to scroll through images, or menu settings.
17. **Hot-shoe** – The area where you can place an external, dedicated speed-lite or flashgun. **Dedicated** means that it is compatible with your camera and will adjust itself as you change the camera settings or zoom on the lens.
18. **Mode Dial** – Using this dial, you can be as creative or lazy as you wish, from **full auto mode** (like a point and shoot) to fully manual. It will normally include **easy** automatic settings for various modes.

**P** **- (Program) mode**- Can be programmed for certain lighting situations, and will act as an automatic setting, until you are no longer in that setting. Can be frustrating if you forget what settings you had programmed.

**A/Av – Aperture Priority** – Which allows **you** to set the aperture of the lens (i.e. F2.8 or F8) and the **camera** will select the correct shutter speed. This is good if you want more control over the depth of field (DOF) of your images.

**S/Tv – Shutter Priority** – This is the opposite. **You** set the shutter speed, and the **camera** will select the correct aperture. Great for sports or wildlife photography where you need control of the shutter speeds. 15th or 30th/sec is slow and 500th/sec is fast.

**M/Manual** – **You** are in full control here. The cameras metering system will guide you but you need to set the shutter speed and aperture manually. Good for more creative control.

1. **Battery compartment** – This is where the re-chargeable batteries live. Most new Digital SLR ‘s will have the ability to affix a [battery grip](http://www.all-things-photography.com/canon-battery-grip/) which will give you even **more** power, and give the camera a bulkier feel and therefore easier to grip (if you have big hands).
2. **Tripod Socket** – Allows you to attach the camera to a tripod. The socket is normally placed to the exact center of where the lens is for effective balance and weight distribution.
3. **Focus Ring –** This ring allows can be turned and adjusted if manual focus is switched on, otherwise the camera will adjust.
4. **Zoom Ring –** Can be adjusted to zoom in or out using the lenses optical capabilities. Can be manually adjusted even when camera and lens are switched to auto.
5. **Auto/Manual Focus switch –** Allows you to make the decision whether or not you want to manually focus, or if you want the camera to take over.
6. **Lens Information -** This information gives you details on that particular lens’ zooming capabilities, as well as the range of aperture that can be achieved.
7. **Lens Attachment Threads –** These threaded areas on the inner and outer sides of the lens around the glass are where filters, lens adaptors, and a lens hood can be attached.