

THE PHOTO
MENTORSHIP

MASTER YOUR CAMERA CHEAT SHEET



A **CORRECT EXPOSURE** IS WHEN AN IMAGE IS

NOT TOO BRIGHT

NOT TOO DARK

BASED ON WHAT THE PHOTOGRAPHER **THINKS** IT SHOULD BE

3 FACTORS CONTRIBUTE TO A CORRECT EXPOSURE

1. ISO

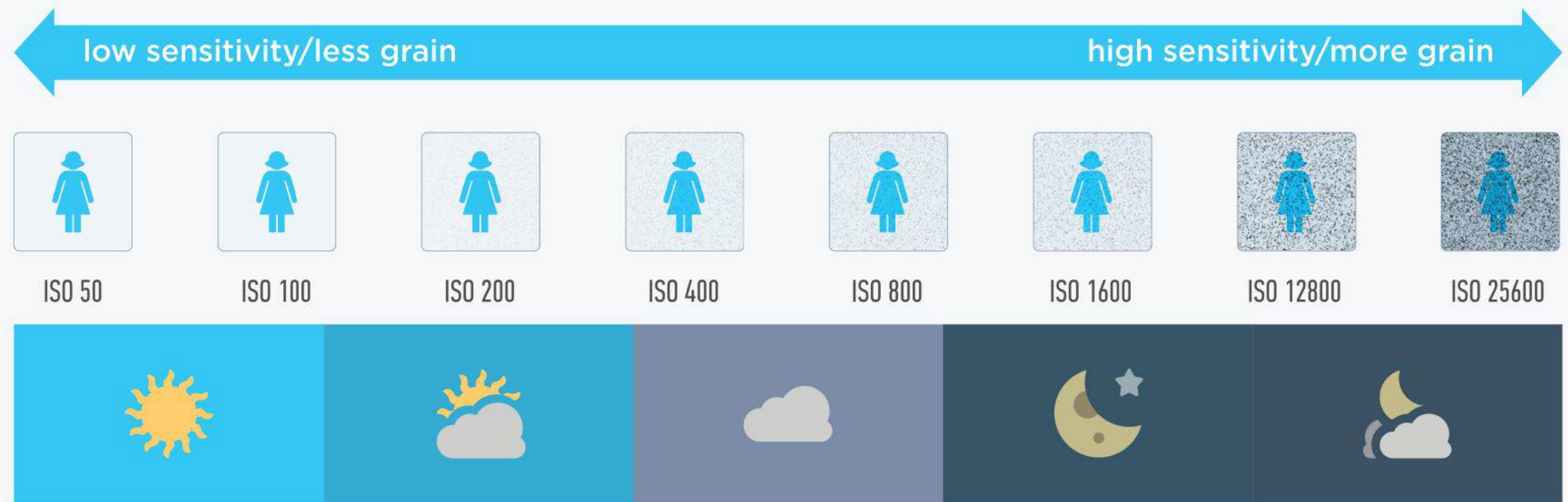
2. SHUTTER SPEED

3. APERTURE

THESE 3 FACTORS ARE

THE EXPOSURE TRIANGLE

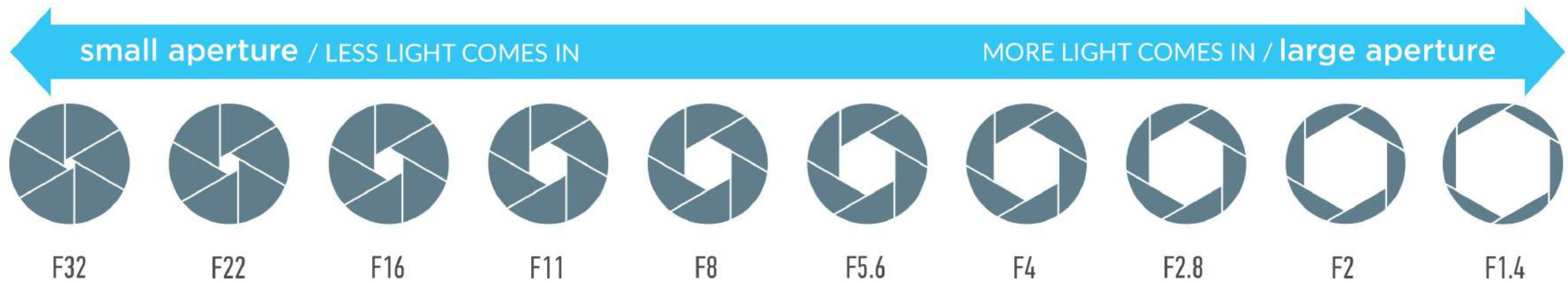
ISO



ISO IS THE SENSITIVITY LEVEL OF YOUR
CAMERA'S SENSOR

HIGHER NUMBER = BRIGHTENS IMAGE BUT MORE GRAINY
SMALLER NUMBER = DARKENS IMAGE BUT LESS GRAINY

APERTURE

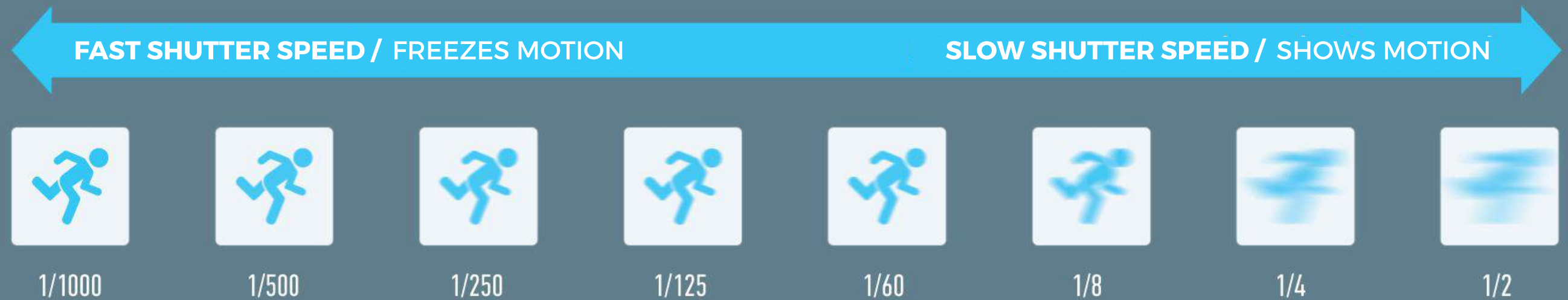


APERTURE IS THE SIZE OF THE HOLE IN YOUR LENS THAT LET'S LIGHT INTO YOUR CAMERA.

LARGER HOLE = MORE LIGHT BUT SMALLER NUMBER

SMALLER HOLE = LESS LIGHT BUT LARGER NUMBER

SHUTTER SPEED

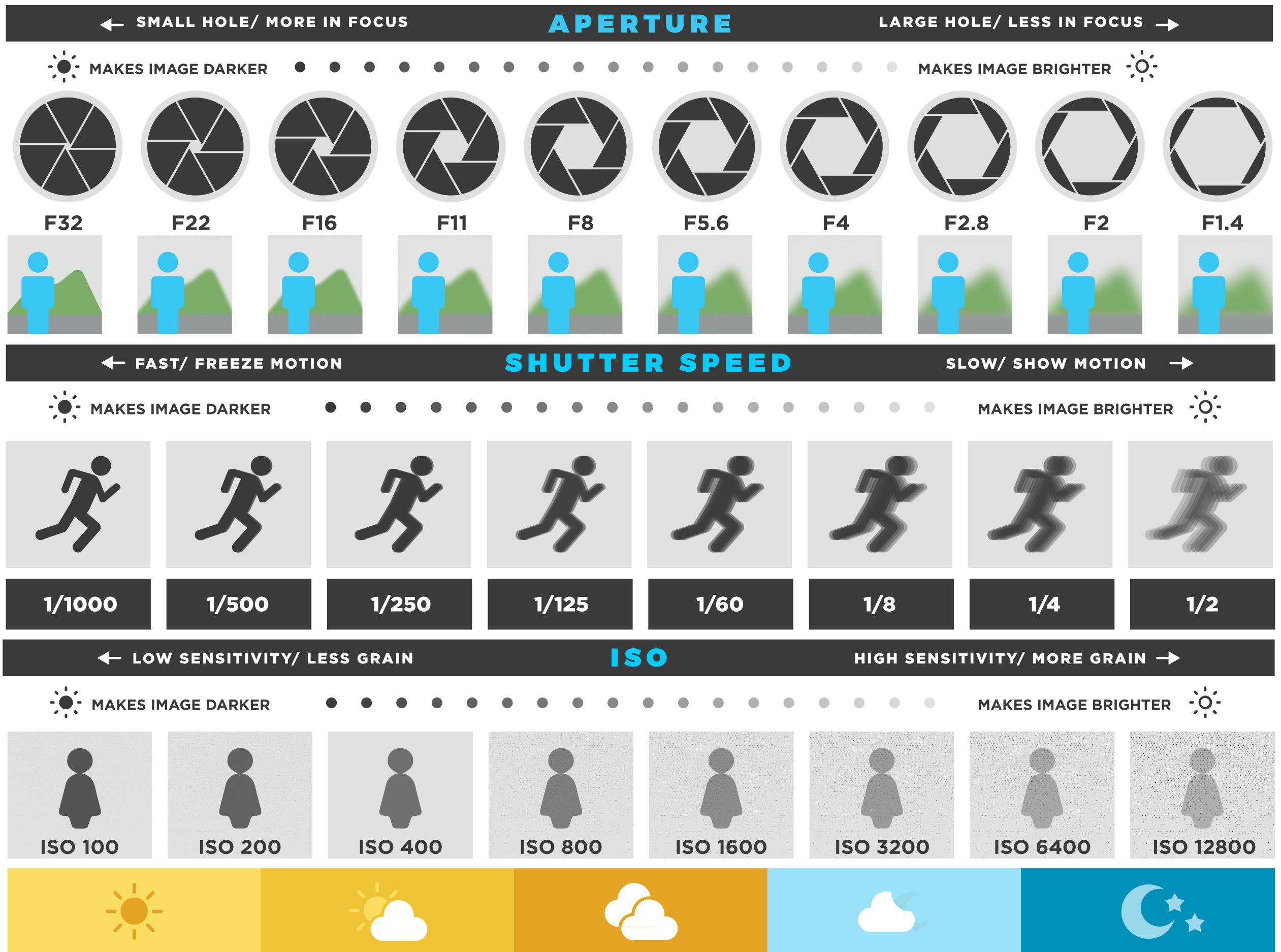


SHUTTER SPEED IS THE AMOUNT OF TIME YOU EXPOSE LIGHT TO YOUR SENSOR.

LONGER TIME = MORE LIGHT + MOTION BLUR

SHORTER TIME = LESS LIGHT + FROZEN MOTION

THE EXPOSURE TRIANGLE | ALL 3 FACTORS SUMMARIZED



DEPTH OF FIELD

IS THE AMOUNT OF DISTANCE
IN FOCUS

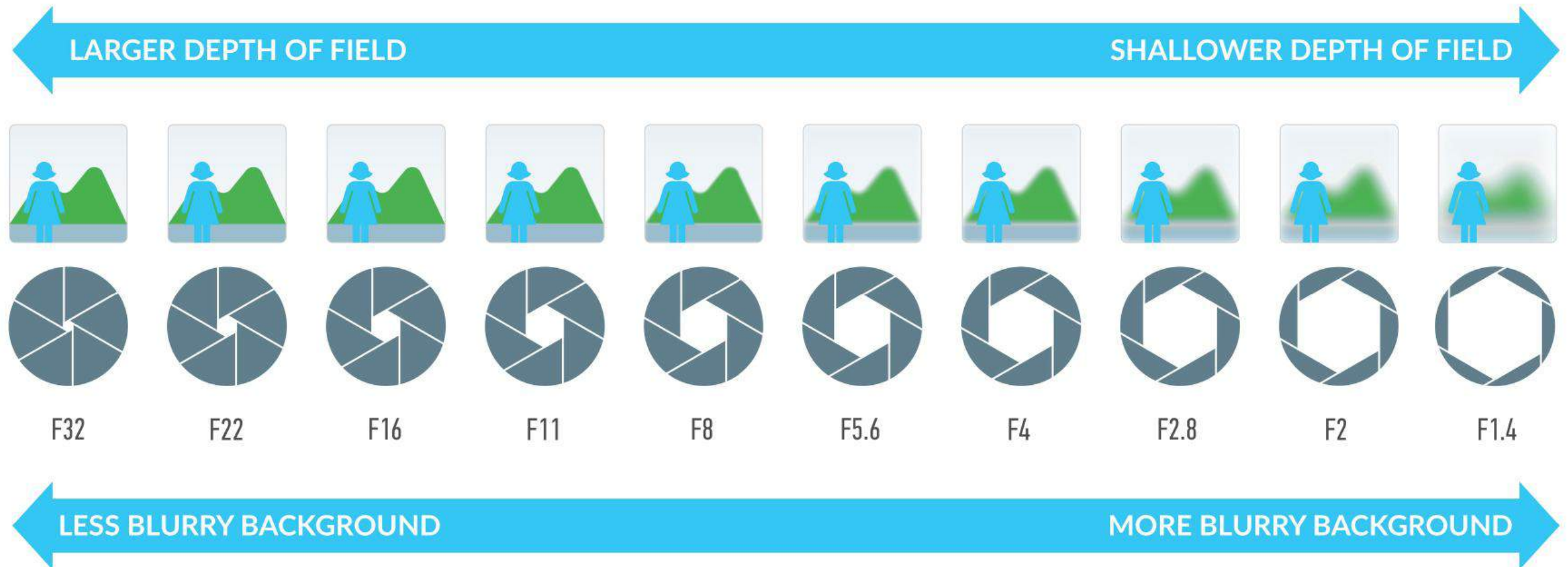
SHALLOW DEPTH = BLURRY BACKGROUND

DEEP DEPTH = CRISP BACKGROUND

3 FACTORS CONTROL

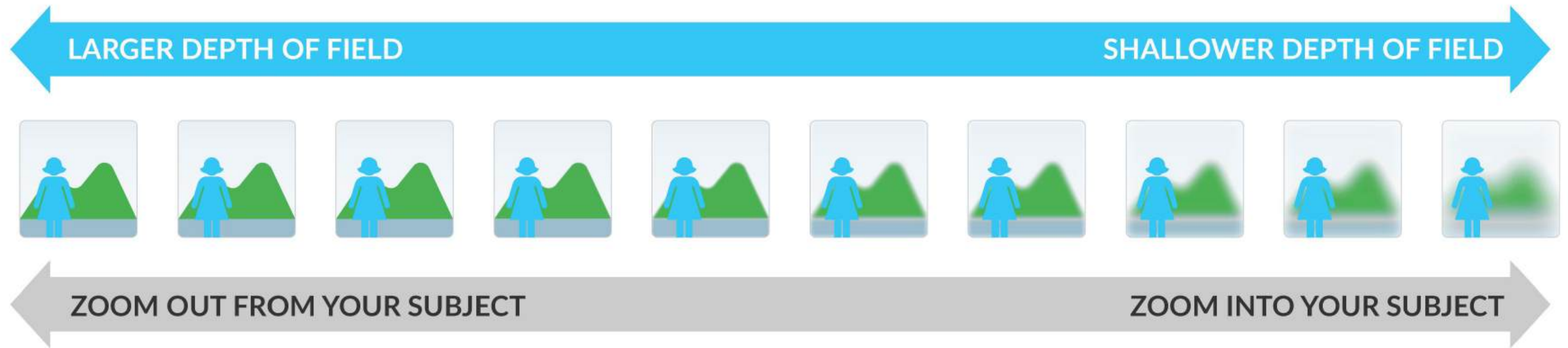
DEPTH OF FIELD

APERTURE



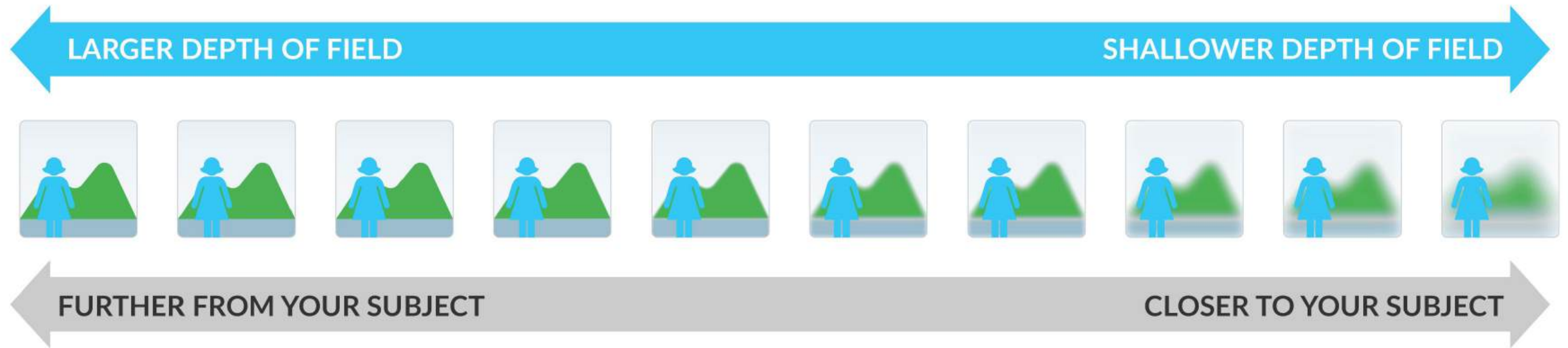
LARGER HOLE = MORE BACKGROUND BLUR
SMALLER HOLE = LESS BACKGROUND BLUR

LENS ZOOM



ZOOM IN = MORE BACKGROUND BLUR
ZOOM OUT = LESS BACKGROUND BLUR

PROXIMITY TO SUBJECT



CLOSE TO SUBJECT = MORE BACKGROUND BLUR
FAR FROM SUBJECT = LESS BACKGROUND BLUR

PHOTOGRAPHY TERMINOLOGY



DSLR

Digital Single-Lens Reflex. A camera that uses a mirror system to reflect light from the lens up into an optical viewfinder. When you press the shutter, the mirror flips up and light hits the sensor. Known for fast performance, long battery life, and a wide lens ecosystem.



Mirrorless

A camera that captures images directly through the sensor with no mirror in between. Because there's no mirror box, these cameras are typically more compact, and they preview exposure in real time through an electronic viewfinder or screen.



Sensor

The digital equivalent of film. The sensor is a light-sensitive chip inside your camera that captures the image when light passes through the lens. Larger sensors generally produce better image quality, especially in low light.



Lens

An interchangeable attachment to the front of your camera. It focuses on your subject, controls light through the aperture, and everything your sensor records passes through it first.



ISO

A measure of your camera sensor's sensitivity to light. A low ISO (e.g., 100) produces clean, detailed images in bright light. A high ISO (e.g., 3200+) brightens dark scenes but introduces digital noise (grain).



Aperture

The opening inside your lens that controls how much light passes through to the sensor. Measured in f-stops (f/1.8, f/8, f/16, etc.) — counterintuitively, a lower f-number means a wider opening and more light. Aperture also controls depth of field.



Shutter Speed

The length of time the camera's shutter stays open, exposing the sensor to light. Fast speeds (1/1000s) freeze motion; slow speeds (1/30s or longer) can create motion blur or allow more light in for low-light shots.



Exposure Triangle

The relationship between the three core exposure controls — ISO, aperture, and shutter speed. Adjusting any one of them affects the others. Mastering the triangle is the foundation of manual photography.



Depth of Field

How much of your image, from foreground to background, appears sharp and in focus. A shallow depth of field (blurry background) is achieved with a wide aperture; a deep depth of field (everything sharp) uses a narrow aperture.



Light Meter

The in-camera tool that measures the amount of light in a scene and helps you determine the correct exposure settings. Displayed as a scale in your viewfinder or on the screen — centered means a balanced exposure.



Bokeh

The aesthetic quality of the out-of-focus blur in an image, particularly in the background. Smooth, circular bokeh is produced by a wide aperture and a lens with a pleasing optical design. The word comes from the Japanese boke, meaning "blur."



Tripod

A three-legged camera support that eliminates camera shake for sharp images in low light, long exposures, or video work. Essential for landscape, architectural, and product photography.

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ENJOY!