

GOOD LIGHTING



Three-point lighting is the standard method used in visual media such as film, still photography and computer-generated imagery.

It is a simple but versatile system which forms the basis of most lighting.

Once you understand three-point lighting, you are well on the way to understanding all lighting.



1

Key light

2

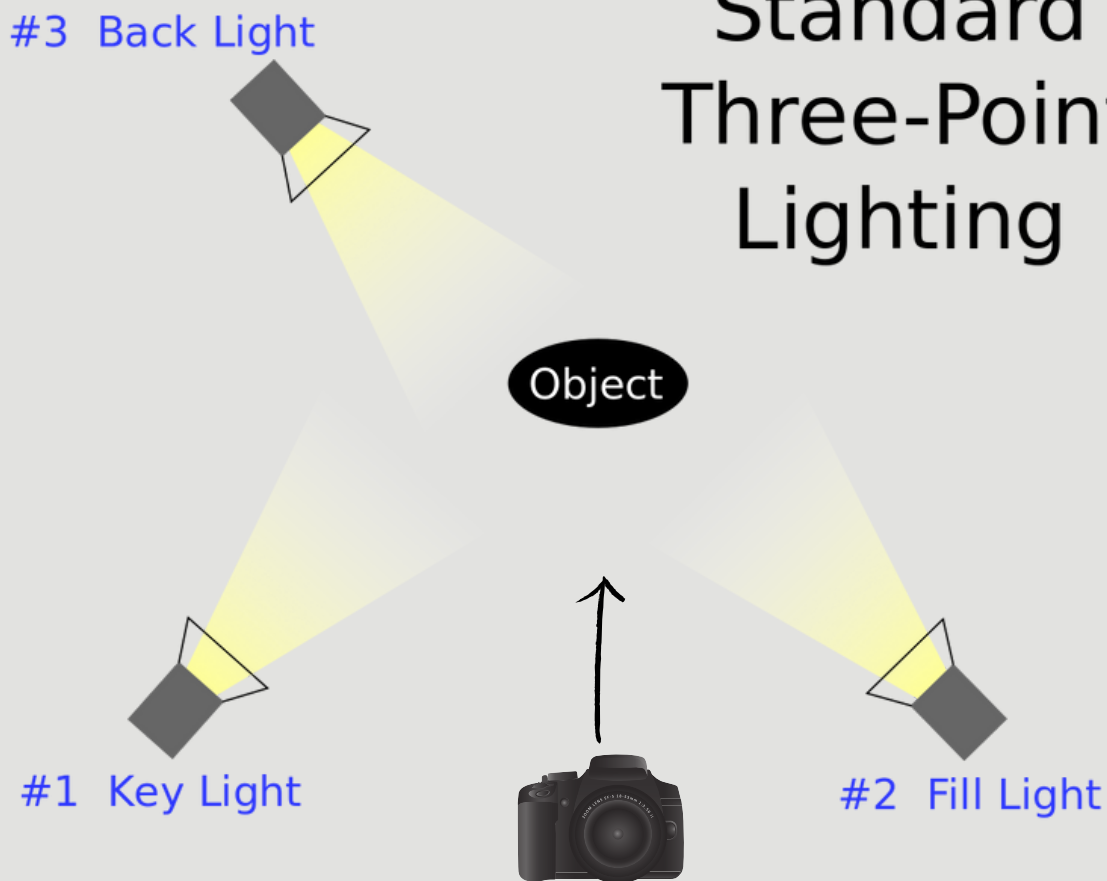
Fill light

3

Back light



Standard Three-Point Lighting



Key light

This is the main light. It is usually the strongest and has the most influence on instructor. The key light should be placed to one side of the camera so that this side is well lit and the other has some shadow. It provides hard light , like that from the sun on a clear day: a bright light with hard-edged shadows.



Fill light

This is the secondary light and is placed on the opposite side to the key light. It is used to fill the shadows created by the key. The fill will usually be softer and less bright than the key and casts soft indistinct shadows. Its light can be likened to indirect sunlight or reflected light from the environment. It is sometimes referred to as the 'highlight' as it is often used to give a sheen or highlight to an instructor's hair.

Back light

This is placed behind the subject and lights it from the rear. Rather than providing direct lighting (which the key and fill give), its purpose is to provide definition and subtle highlights around the subject's outlines. This helps separate the subject from the background and give a three-dimensional look.

