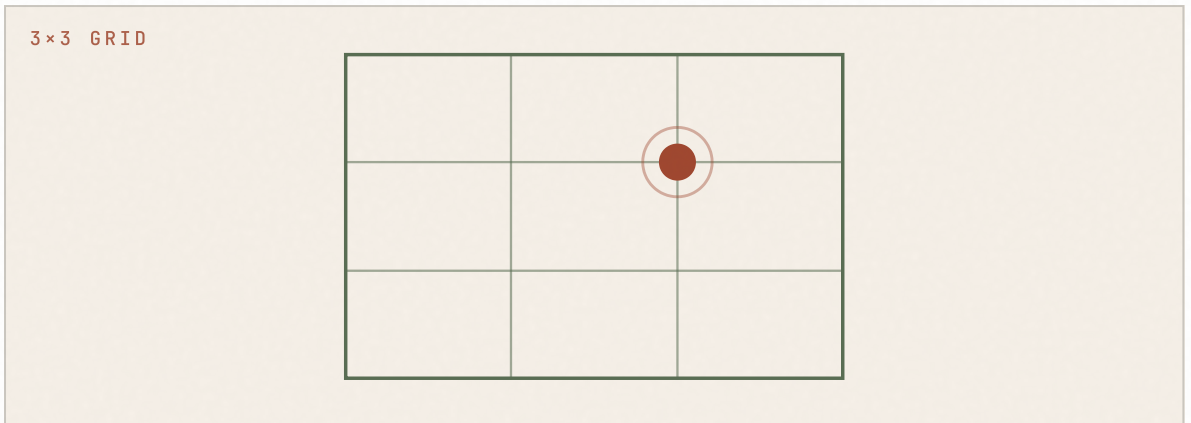


Nº 01 *Rule of thirds*



Divide your frame into nine equal parts with two horizontal and two vertical lines. Place your subject on a line – or where two lines cross – instead of dead center.

Centered photos feel *static*. Off-center photos feel *alive*.

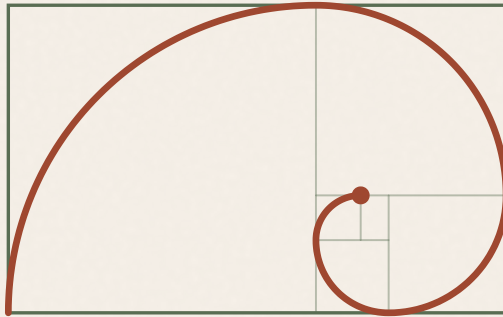
- Horizons go on the upper or lower third – never the middle
- Eyes (portraits) sit on the upper third line
- Moving subjects look **into** the empty two-thirds

TRY IT NOW

Pick any subject. Frame it dead-center. Then shift so it lands on a vertical third. Feel the difference.

Nº 02 *Golden ratio*

1 : 1.618

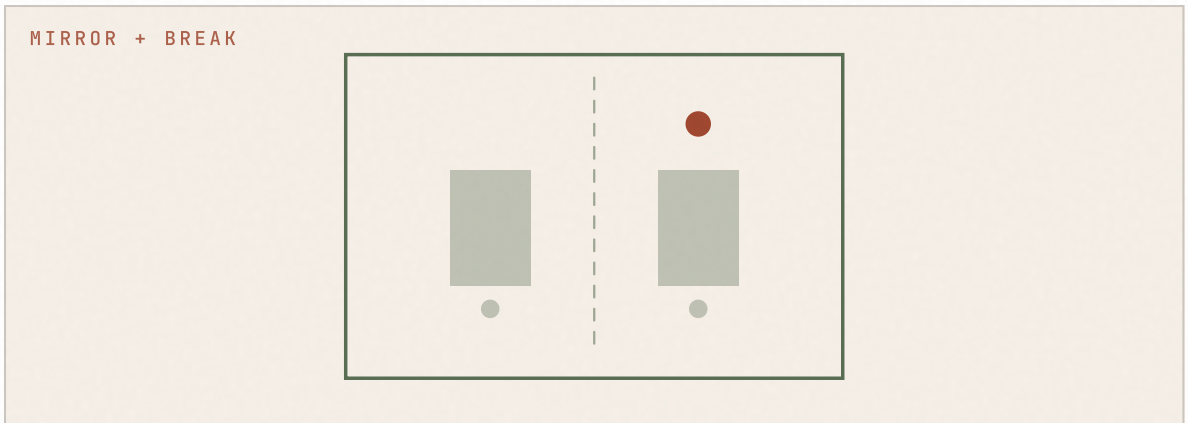


The number **1.618**. The Fibonacci spiral. Found throughout nature and classical art – shells, flowers, faces, paintings. A more refined cousin of the rule of thirds.

Use it when you have *time* to compose carefully – a still life, a portrait, a slow landscape. Otherwise, thirds is good enough 95% of the time.

LOOK FOR IT

Spirals are everywhere – shells, plant patterns, even the way a face is proportioned. Once you see one, you'll see them everywhere.



Sometimes centering *is* the point. Three kinds:

- **Mirror** – left equals right (reflections, doorways, faces)
- **Radial** – repeating from a center (a dome, a flower, looking straight up)
- **Pattern** – same element repeated (rows, grids, a crowd)

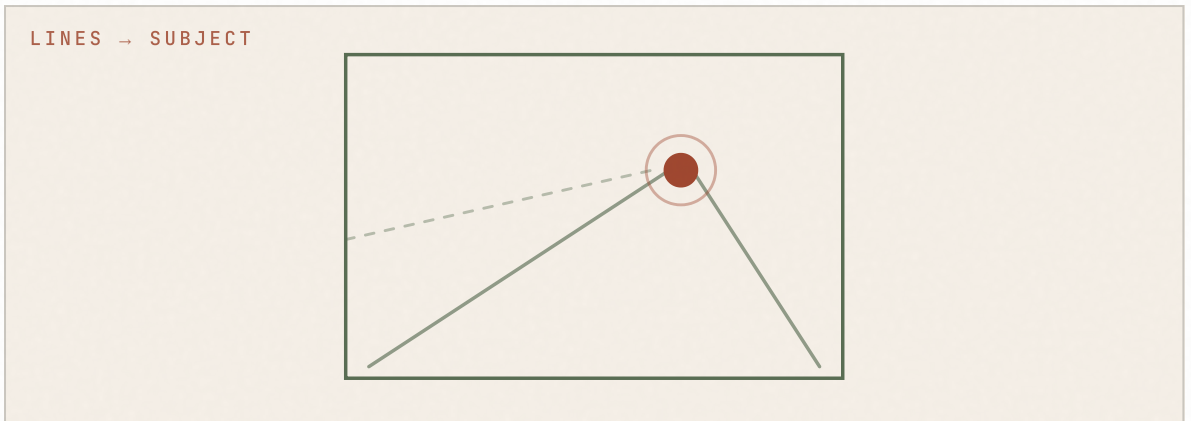
The trick: *break* the symmetry with one element. A single odd colour. One out-of-place shape. That imperfection is what gives the photo life.

TRY IT NOW

Find a symmetrical scene – architecture, a reflection, a repeating pattern.

Photograph it dead-center. Look for the one element that breaks the mirror.

Nº 04 *Leading lines*



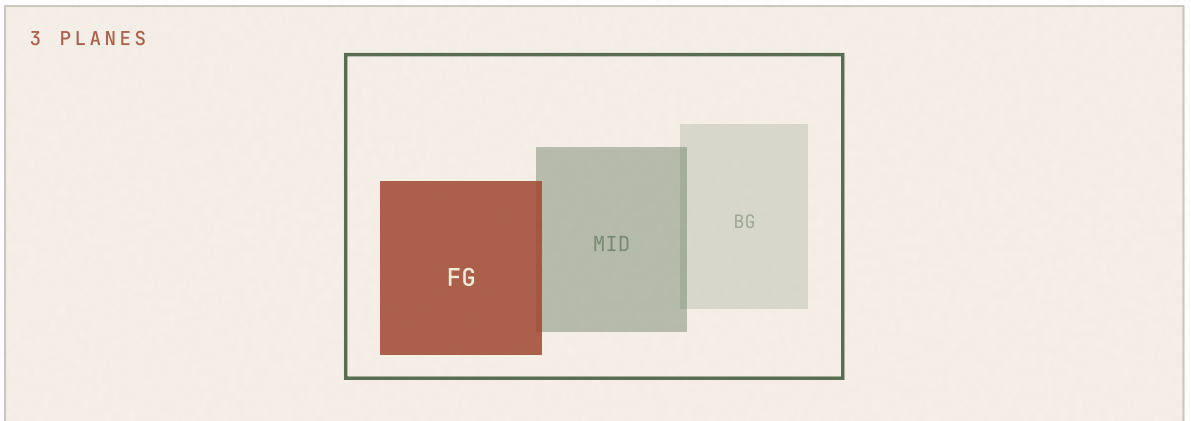
Lines are paths your eye follows. Find a line, place your subject where it ends. Five kinds:

- **Converging** – roads, corridors, perspective vanishing · *dramatic*
- **Diagonal** – slopes, stairs, leaning shapes · *energetic*
- **Curved** – rivers, paths, arches · *peaceful*
- **Horizontal** – horizons, still water · *calm*
- **Vertical** – pillars, towers, tall structures · *strong*

The pro move: let a line travel through the frame to a Rule of Thirds intersection. Place your subject right there.

TRY IT NOW

Find any line in your scene that points somewhere. Frame your subject at the end of that arrow.



Three planes – every strong photo has all three:

- **Foreground** – close to the camera
- **Middle** – your main subject
- **Background** – what's far away

Focal length is the secret weapon. On your phone:

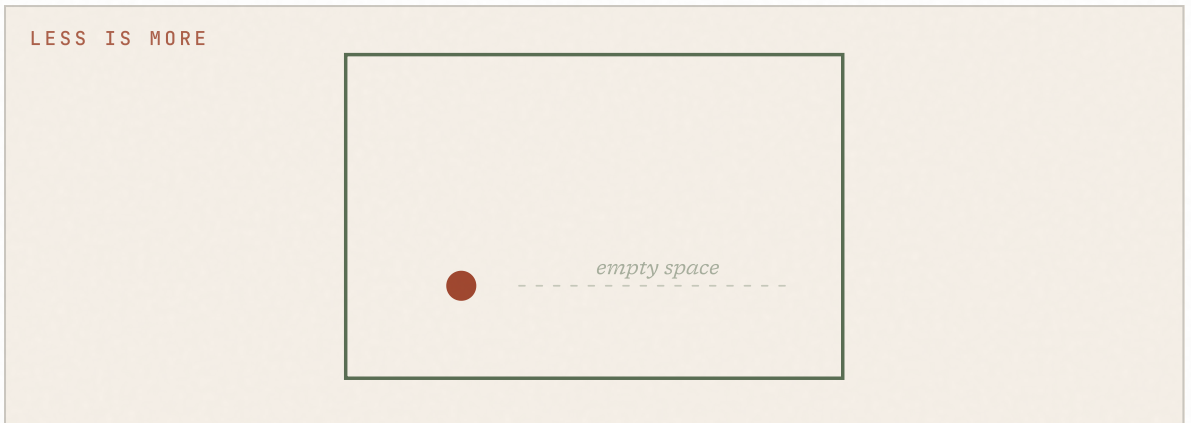
- **0.5x** – *stretches* depth. Foreground feels huge.
- **1x** – what your eye sees.
- **2x / 3x** – *compresses* depth. Layers stack like paint.

Same scene, three different stories – without moving your feet.

TRY IT NOW

Frame three layers – close, middle, far. Then shoot the same spot at 0.5x, then at 2x. Compare.

Nº 06 *Negative space*



The empty *around* your subject. Don't fill every pixel – what you leave out is often more important than what you include.

Two ways to find it: **uncluttered backgrounds** (sky, walls, fog, water) and **tight cropping** that lets one element breathe.

Balance isn't equal. A small dark element can balance a large bright one. Different weights. Same harmony.

TRY IT NOW

Find a small subject. Surround it with emptiness – open sky, a plain wall, smooth water. The smaller the subject relative to the empty, the more powerful the image.

When in *doubt*.

- 01 ***Thirds*** — off-center, always
subject on a line, never the middle

- 02 ***Golden spiral*** — for slow shots
refinement when there's time

- 03 ***Symmetry*** — center it, then break it
one element out of place adds magic

- 04 ***Lines*** — point the eye
roads, edges, slopes, perspective

- 05 ***Depth*** — three planes minimum
close + middle + far. try 0.5x and 2x

- 06 ***Negative space*** — leave it empty
small subject, plain background