Taking Good Pictures

(A brief presentation on proper photo composition)

What makes a “good” picture?

Some tips:

- Vertical vs Horizontal
- Rule of Thirds
- Foreground
- Emphasizing subject
- Sense of scale
- Lines

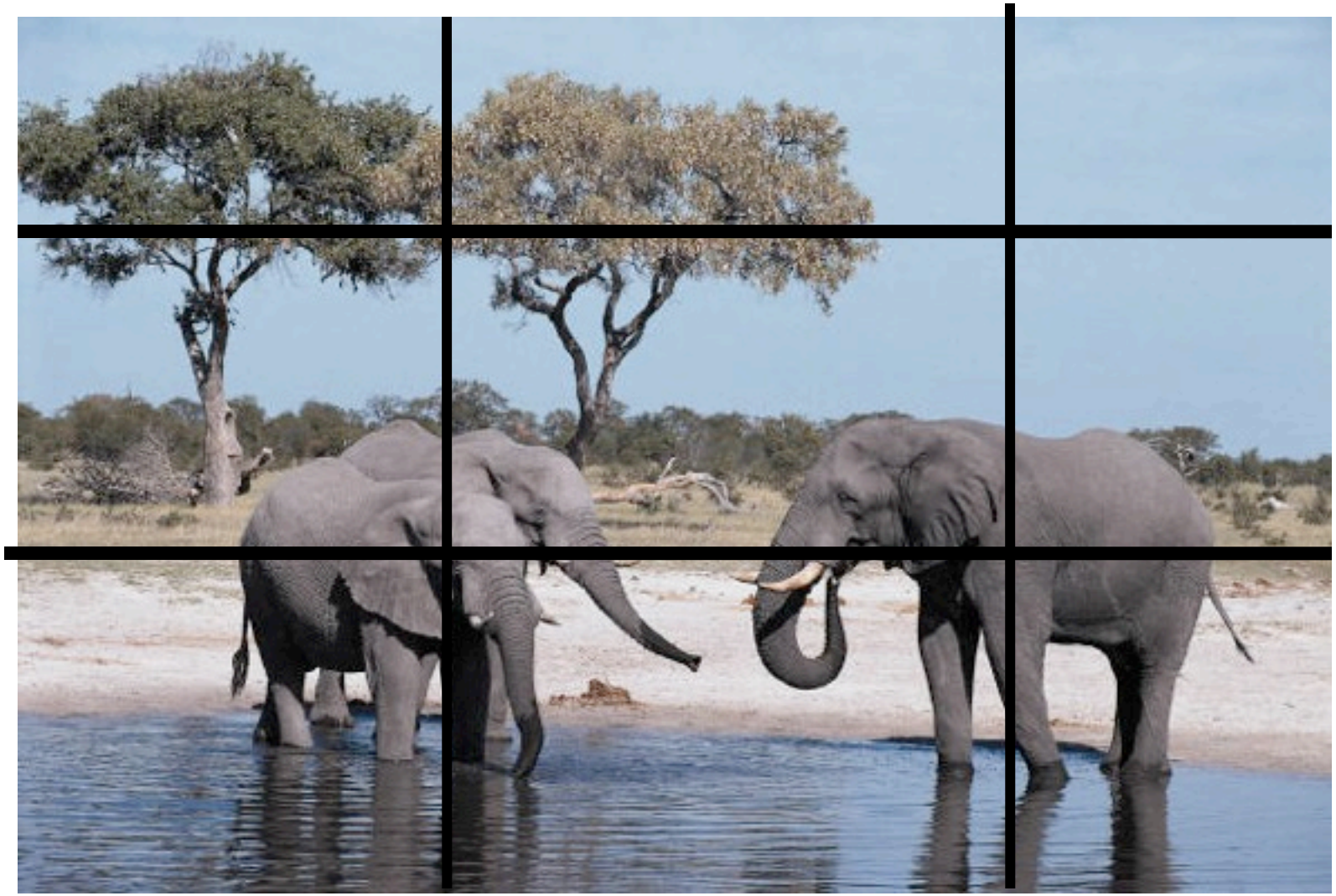
Vertical versus Horizontal

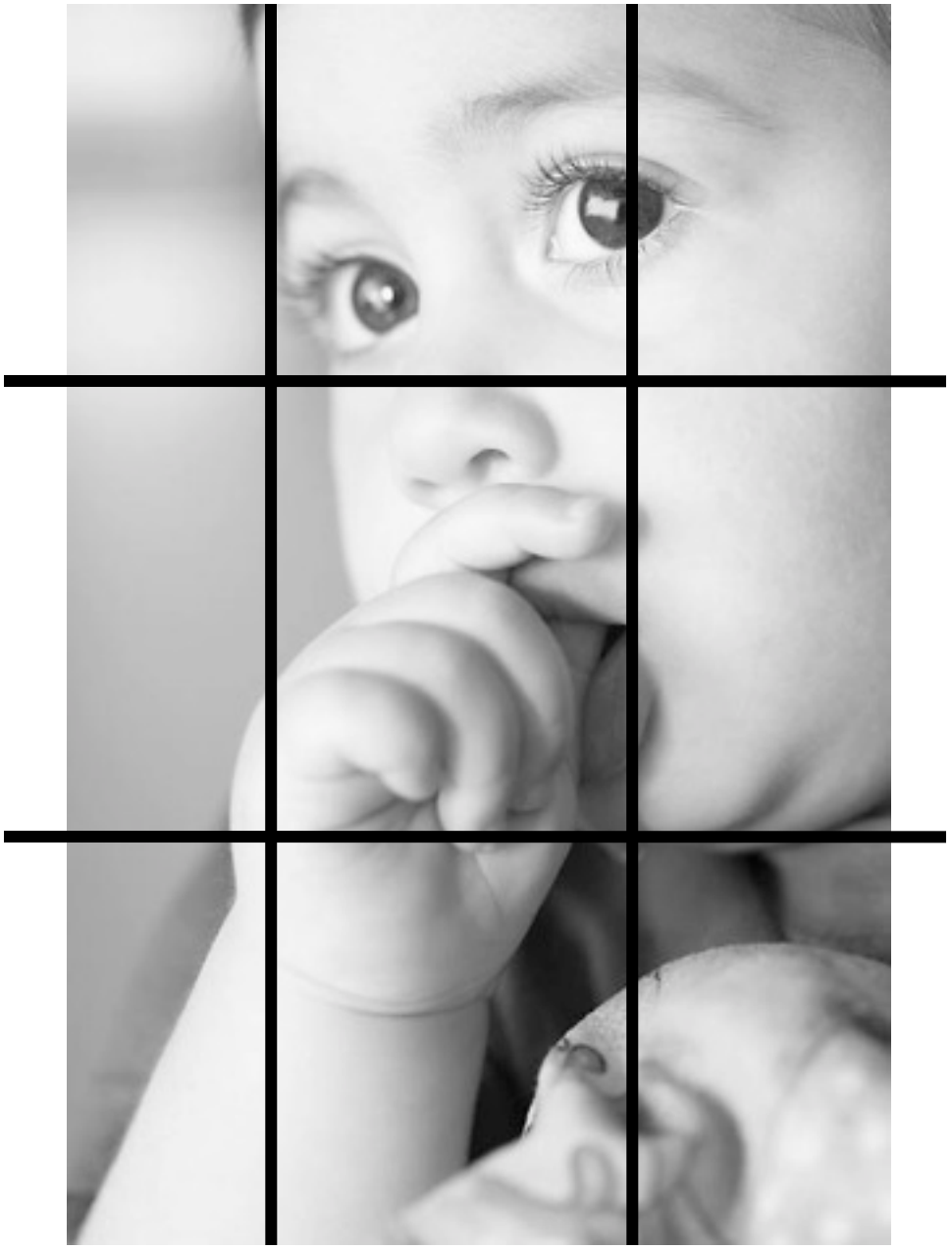
Even though cameras are designed to be used horizontally, use whatever format that compliments the subject of your photo.

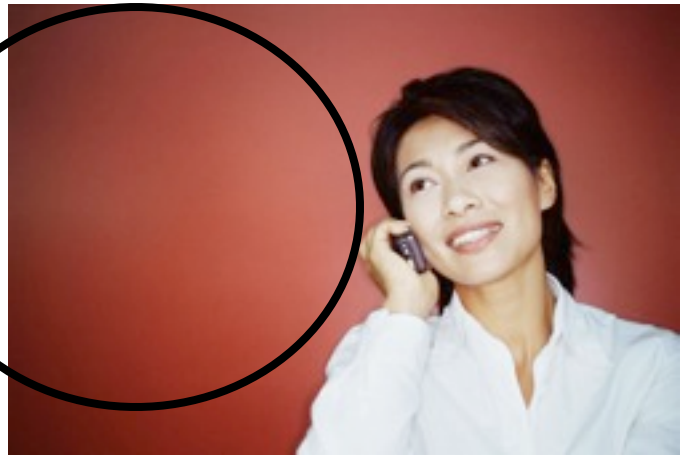
The Rule of Thirds

Mentally “divide” the view into vertical and horizontal “thirds.” Each line represents a good location for a subject of a photo, especially where the lines intersect.

It is usually best to place the main focus of your photo at one of these intersections.







Also, notice the negative space for the eye lines. No “mug” shots…

Foreground

Foreground gives DEPTH…

… and DISTANCE to a photo.

Emphasizing the Subject

Fill the frame with the subject of your picture.

Notice how the other objects are sufficiently out of focus so as not to visually distract from the main subject of the photograph?

Sense of Scale

If the desired effect is to show the size of something…

… then go ahead an put a person in the picture. Viewers can immediately get a sense of the scale.

Lines

The human eye naturally traces out lines, so go ahead and use natural lines to draw a viewer's eye towards something…

… or use lines to give a sense of depth and convergence to the picture.

Conclusion

If you pay attention to these basic tips, every picture you take will tend to be more visually interesting.