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Camera angles and shots in film and photography are key elements that can completely change the story that you're trying to tell. The direction in which you camera points, whether the camera moves or stands still, and whether you use an extreme long shot or a close-up are decisions you must make to communicate your artistic vision. In this article, you'll know all the types of camera shots and camera angles so that you can decide which ones work best for your next film or photoshoot. Remember that including them in your shot list will make the photoshoot or filming go smoothly. If you're ready, let's get started! Knowing all the types of camera shots and angles will help you when creating a shot list. This way, you can organize your workflow, know which equipment you'll need, and have everything go smoothly.

1. Close-up ShotCredit: Ajan GhoshA close-up shot is when your subject covers most of the frame. You can achieve this by being physically close to the subject or by using a telephoto lens from afar. When close-up shots are used to depict a person, a close-up shot helps you to show the expressions and emotions of the character. It's also a very intimate shot. Instead, if the subject is an object or an action then it's used to direct the viewers' attention. For example, if two people are arguing and one is holding a knife behind his back you might want to do a close-up shot at the hand with the knife. 2. Medium ShotCredit: FauxelsA medium shot is still centered on the main subject, but it shows more of the context. It generally refers to all shots that frame a person from the waist up, although something tighter across the torso is still OK. With a medium shot, not only are you showing the context but also the body language you can also see. A medium shot is a good way to show the relationship between two characters. It's also a good way to show the subject in a scene while keeping a strong presence of the subject. This is the way to go. The long shot also shows the full length of the subject, so can be useful in exaggerating scale when comparing the subject to the objects surrounding it. Credit: Alex AlexanderAn extreme close-up is exactly what the name suggests its taking the close-up shot to the extreme by closing in on a detail of the subject. With these shots, you can emphasize a reaction or an expression on the character for example, a tear. It's not necessarily used with characters it can be an object too for example, an extreme close-up of a watch to show how the time is passing. 2. Extreme Long ShotCredit: PixabayAn extreme long shot is a very wide camera shot that leaves your subject so far away that it almost gets lost within the scene. You can use this to show your character feeling isolated or vulnerable in a vast space. 3. Cowboy ShotCredit: Vitaliy IzninOriginally called cowboy shot because it depicts the subject from the mid-thigh, this allowed for the cowboy guns to be on the frame to capture the quickdraw. You may still call it a cowboy shot, but you might also find it an American shot. This type of shot is close enough to the subject that you can still see emotions and expressions but you can also show part of the scene, especially what they are doing with their hands. 4. Over the Shoulder ShotCredit: Jap GambardellaThis is one of the most common camera shot framing types when there's a conversation happening in the scene usually between two characters. The camera is placed behind the character who is listening so you can see part of the head and the shoulder. Then, in focus, you see the person who is speaking. It literally shows how you would see if you were peaking over the shoulder of the character. Usually, this shot alternates continuously as the conversation goes on, creating a shot-reverse-shot sequence. This camera shot allows the viewer to understand who is involved in the conversation and still appreciate the non-verbal communication from the person who is talking. In some cases, the camera angle changes too, to show the reaction of the character. 5. Dutch Angle ShotCredit: Jap GambardellaA Dutch angle shot is a camera shot that is tilted. If its made using a dolly, it's also known as the dolly shot. However, not all tracking shots are made with a dolly it can be done with a Steadicam, a crane, or a boom. It can be a forward tracking shot when the camera follows the character as they move away. Instead, a backward tracking shot when the character is coming towards the camera as it pulls back to maintain the same distance. Lastly, there's the lateral tracking shot when the camera moves sideways. 6. Zoom Shot With a zoom shot, the camera doesn't move. You might see the character closer or further away, but it's an effect due to the change of focal length. Although, there is an effect called the dolly-zoom, which is used to create an unusual visual perception, and it's been used by Alfred Hitchcock, Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, and other great directors. 7. Master ShotThe master shot is the most important and is often the first on the shot list. It should cover an entire action or an entire scene. However, they play a different role in modern films than they used to be before, the whole of viewing revolved around the master shot. Now, multiple camera shots, camera angles, and camera movements make films more dynamic. 8. POV Shot POV stands for point of view. So, POV shots show things from the perspective of a particular character. It's an effective technique to pull the viewer into the action by giving them a first-person angle of view. Many films in history have successfully used this technique. You can see some famous examples in the above video reel. Typically, a POV shot comes after a medium shot or a close-up where you see the character looking at something then you jump right into their perspective with a POV to see what they were looking at. 9. Establishing ShotTypically, an establishing shot is a wide shot or an extra wide angle shot. This is because they're used to establish a time and a place where your story is happening. Establishing shots can have different camera shot sizes depending on how much context you need to give to the viewer. If you want to signal that you're in a specific city, an extreme wide shot would be the best. If you want to show a particular location, a medium shot would be the best. If you want to show a particular person, a close-up would be the best. 10. Low Angle ShotCredit: Tima MiroshnichenkoThis camera angle indicates that you're looking up at the subject. How low? That depends on what you want to tell with this shot but technically speaking, anything below the eye level of the subject is already a low-angle shot. When the camera is positioned almost at ground level, it's also called a worms eye view. In general, you use this camera shot angle to show the subject big and powerful or because you want to include something tall behind your subject in the frame. 2. Ground Level ShotCredit: Budgeron BachFor this camera angle, you need to be shooting at ground level but unlike the low angle shot, the camera is not looking up. In this case, the camera is low on the ground because you want to show something that is happening down there. 3. Knee Level ShotCredit: Gustavo FringContinuing up the axis of the camera, you can do a knee-level shot. This camera angle is shot at the knee level of a character, and it's often used to include another character entirely because its further away. 4. Hip Level Shot Usually, a hip-level camera angle is used for a cowboy shot. This allows you to show the character from the mid-thigh without distortion. In photography, a hip-level shot is also common when street photographers capture candid snapshots preventing people from noticing them. 5. Shoulder Level ShotThe shoulder-level shot is one of the most common camera shot angles as the name indicates, it's done by positioning the camera at the same height as the subjects shoulders. 6. Eye Level ShotCredit: RF StudioAt the top of the list, the eye-level shot is the most used of all camera angles. This is because it doesn't have a particular effect or impact on the viewer it offers a familiar perspective. Most of the story is told at this level because its neutral. This way, its immediately noticeable to the viewer when you want to create an effect and change the camera angle. 7. High Angle ShotCredit: Mikhail NilovaA high-angle shot is when you have the camera looking down at the subject. It doesn't matter how high or low in the axis this is, as long as the camera is looking down at the subject. This is a good way to show the subject in a scene while keeping a strong presence of the subject. This is the way to go. The long shot also shows the full length of the subject, so can be useful in exaggerating scale when comparing the subject to the objects surrounding it. Credit: Alex AlexanderAn extreme close-up is exactly what the name suggests its taking the close-up shot to the extreme by closing in on a detail of the subject. With these shots, you can emphasize a reaction or an expression on the character for example, a tear. It's not necessarily used with characters it can be an object too for example, an extreme close-up of a watch to show how the time is passing. 2. 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ception of camera space, making them a popular choice for hand-held action shots. Wide-angle lenses also seem to exaggerate depth. Thus, subjects in the frame are smaller than they would be in normal perspective. For the same reason, those subjects grow rapidly as they approach the camera, making them seem to move faster. Everything about the way we see the world is affected by the way we see the camera. The camera is not just a window into the world; it is a part of the world. The camera is also used to reduce depth of field and make the subject stand out from the background. This effect is great for camera tricks like forced perspective. Miniatures in the foreground can be aligned with distant scenery so they look full-size. Cars speeding across the screen can just barely miss cars headed at them toward the camera. The very long lens reduces the apparent distance of the road, concealing the fact that there was really a big, safe gap between them. 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Too many constricted frames can produce claustrophobia in viewers which can be great inside a sub like Das Boot, but not as a general rule. Its usually better to range between three-quarter two shots (knee-to-head) and normal closeup shots, saving the really tight stuff for special emphasis. The cameras distance from the subject and the focal length of the lens together determine how much of the subject is visible in the frame. These factors also impact the subjects apparent size. How close the talent is in the frame gives us a feeling of how close they are to us, or to other things. This was used spectacularly in Robert Bontons 1979 drama about a family falling apart, Kramer vs Kramer. Actor Dustin Hoffman pushes his son Billy (played by Justin Henry) on a bicycle. As Billy figures out how to ride, the camera pulls back and Billy rides toward the audience. At the same time, the camera moves closer to Hoffman. 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This shot from The Innocents uses distance to obscure details about the subject from the viewer. Because we can't see the subject clearly, we must make inferences based on the little information we do have. Midrange angles, including full shot to medium closeups, tend to be inconspicuous because they model typical human perspectives. When you want the video camera to be invisible, framing just a window on the actual world, mid-range setups are the ticket. This medium shot from Kong: Skull Island is wide enough to show some details of the setting, but close enough for viewers to emotionally connect with the Tom Hiddlestons character, James Conrad. Close shots tend to be intense. Moving in on a subject enhances its importance. The bigger a subject is in the frame, the more viewers pay attention. Very close camera angles can often do the acting for the performer. In the golden oldie, A Fistful of Dollars, ultra-tight closeups of Clint Eastwood tell us his planning big surprises for the bad guys. We know this even though his face is totally expressionless. Clint Eastwoods job is made a little easier with a big closeup in A Fistful of Dollars. This camera angle serves to amplify emotion. Too many constricted frames can produce claustrophobia in viewers which can be great inside a sub like Das Boot, but not as a general rule. Its usually better to range between three-quarter two shots (knee-to-head) and normal closeup shots, saving the really tight stuff for special emphasis. The cameras distance from the subject and the focal length of the lens together determine how much of the subject is visible in the frame. These factors also impact the subjects apparent size. How close the talent is in the frame gives us a feeling of how close they are to us, or to other things. This was used spectacularly in Robert Bontons 1979 drama about a family falling apart, Kramer vs Kramer. Actor Dustin Hoffman pushes his son Billy (played by Justin Henry) on a bicycle. As Billy figures out how to ride, the camera pulls back and Billy rides toward the audience. At the same time, the camera moves closer to Hoffman. The result is that the audience feels like they are right there with the family. The camera is not just a window into the world; it is a part of the world. The camera is also used to reduce depth of field and make the subject stand out from the background. This effect is great for camera tricks like forced perspective. Miniatures in the foreground can be aligned with distant scenery so they look full-size. Cars speeding across the screen can just barely miss cars headed at them toward the camera. The very long lens reduces the apparent distance of the road, concealing the fact that there was really a big, safe gap between them. Emotionally, long lenses often convey formality and a certain detachment. They keep us distant from the action even as they magnify it. Paradoxically, long lenses also convey suspense. Like, when the rescuing hero runs desperately toward the lens, yet runs and runs and runs without seeming to get any closer. When framing up people, subject size is usually gauged in terms of a standing position. In a long shot, the person is in the middle distance, with plenty of room overhead and below the feet. In full shot, the person fills the frame from head to foot. A medium shot covers waist-up and a classic closeup frames head, neck and just a touch of the shoulder. Subject size has further divisions within each general category. For instance

one or more TV embeds hereThe Third Man (1949): This film is a classic directed by Carol Reed makes use of the Dutch angle to create a sense of paranoia and disorientation in the post-war world setting. The Batman (2022): In this superhero film, director Matt Reeves incorporates Dutch angles to convey the dark and gritty atmosphere of Gotham city, intensifying the tension and emphasizing the psychological struggles of the protagonist Batman (played by Robert Pattinson). The Dutch Tilt to accentuate the chaotic and unpredictable nature of the narrative, amplifying the tension and energy of key moments.Vertigo (1958): Directed by Alfred Hitchcock, Vertigo features notable use of the Dutch angle shot to heighten the sense of disorientation, obsession, and psychological turmoil experienced by the characters.Mission: Impossible series: The Mission: Impossible franchise, particularly in films like Mission: Impossible Rogue Nation and Mission: Impossible Fallout, employs Dutch angles during intense action sequences, adding a dynamic and thrilling perspective to the action-packed scenes.Thor (2011): Directed by Kenneth Branagh, Thor incorporates the Dutch angle to visually emphasize the fantastical and otherworldly aspects of the story, especially during the scenes set in Asgard.Fashion Photography: Many fashion photographers employ the Dutch tilt to bring dynamism and a sense of edginess to their compositions, adding visual interest and breaking away from conventional poses.Street Photography: When capturing urban scenes, photographers often utilize Dutch angles to depict a sense of urban energy and capture the fast-paced nature of city life.By studying these examples and analyzing how Dutch angle shots are used in different contexts, filmmakers and photographers can gain inspiration and insights into implementing this technique in their own projects. Creating a Dutch angle shot involves tilting the camera on its horizontal axis to achieve a skewed or tilted frame.Here are some steps to execute a Dutch angle camera shot:1. Camera Setup2. CompositionFrame your shot as you would with a regular shot, keeping in mind the subject and the desired visual impact.Consider the scenes elements and how the oblique angle will affect the composition and storytelling.3. Tilt the CameraGradually tilt the camera on its horizontal axis, experimenting with different angles and degrees of tilt.Start with subtle angles and gradually increase the tilt for more pronounced effects.4. Maintain BalanceBe mindful of maintaining a balanced composition despite the tilt. Pay attention to the placement of key elements in your Dutch angle shots and avoid a visually cluttered or unbalanced frame.5. Practice and ExperimentExplore the impact of different angles and degrees of tilt on the overall mood and message of the shot.Experiment with combining Dutch angles with other camera techniques, such as depth of field or camera movement, to enhance the visual storytelling.6. Post-Processing (optional)If shooting digitally, you can also achieve a tilted camera angle effect during post-processing using image editing software.Adjust the rotation or skew settings to create the desired Dutch angle shots.Remember, the key to executing Dutch angles successfully is to practice and experiment with different angles and degrees of tilt.Through trial and error, you can develop a sense of how to effectively use the Dutch tilt to enhance your storytelling and evoke the desired emotions in your audience. When incorporating Dutch angle shots in your visual storytelling, consider the following tips to maximize its impact:1. Use it SparinglyThe first tip for using the Dutch angle shot effectively is to use it sparingly. Overuse of this technique can lead to viewer fatigue and can trivialize its impact.Keep it in your toolkit as a spice, not a staple, to maintain its effectiveness. Save it for scenes where you want to emphasize the abnormality or tension inherent in the situation.2. Convey Emotional DisarrayThe Dutch angle is a perfect tool to use when you're trying to depict psychological unrest, confusion, or instability.Use it in scenes where a character is undergoing emotional turmoil or when the world around them is falling into chaos.The slanted angle of the shot will mirror their internal state, making the viewer feel their disarray.3. Highlight Moments of ConflictAnother powerful way to utilize Dutch angle shots is during scenes of conflict or imbalance. This could be a verbal confrontation, physical imbalance, or moral dilemma.The skewed perspective emphasizes the instability of the situation and keeps the audience off balance, increasing their engagement.4. Control Viewer PerceptionCredit: Sam LionRemember, a tilted camera angle isn't just about disorientation; it's also about control. You're guiding the viewers' perception, making them see the scene in a certain way.Use Dutch angle shots to highlight key elements in the scene or to reveal hidden details that can't be perceived in a conventional shot.5. Experiment with DepthCredit: Blue BirdDon't be afraid to experiment with different degrees of tilt in your Dutch angles. A subtle tilt might create a slight sense of unease, while a more extreme tilt can convey a world in turmoil.The degree to which you tilt your camera will depend on the mood and intensity you wish to convey in the scene.6. Consider Strategic PlacementCredit: Marcela Free via PexelsDutch angles can be enhanced by the strategic placement of elements within the frame.Position objects or characters along the new diagonal lines created by the tilt. This will naturally guide the viewers' eyes through the image, giving it a sense of movement and direction.Think about which elements you want to emphasize or underplay, and adjust your composition accordingly. This can also add layers of depth to your shot, creating a more immersive viewing experience.7. Select the Appropriate GearCredit: Kampus ProductionThe Dutch tilt can be greatly accentuated with the right camera gear.Firstly, consider using a tripod with a flexible or adjustable head, allowing for precise and controlled tilting.A wide-angle lens can also enhance the effect of the tilt, making the scene feel more dynamic and dramatic.However, be mindful of distortion. If the subjects become too warped or exaggerated, it can distract from the intended emotional impact.Make sure to experiment with different focal lengths to find the perfect balance that suits your visual storytelling.8. Master Your Camera SettingsCredit: Martin Falbisoner, CC BY-SA 4.0, via Wikimedia CommonsAfter you've selected the appropriate gear, fine-tuning your camera settings is key.To maintain a wide depth of field, choose a smaller aperture (higher f-stop number) which ensures both the foreground and background remain in focus.This is particularly important with Dutch camera angles, as the tilt often brings more elements into the frame.Shutter speed is another important consideration. For dynamic or chaotic scenes where the Dutch angle is used to amplify the action, a faster shutter speed may be needed.Conversely, for static scenes aiming to portray emotional tension or unease, a slower shutter speed can suffice.Experimentation is vital here as well; the goal is to find the optimal settings that align with your creative vision and the mood you aim to convey.9. Transition SmoothlyLastly, transitions matter. Abrupt shifts to and from the Dutch angle can be jarring to viewers.Make sure to transition into and out of these shots smoothly to maintain visual coherence. This could be achieved through panning, tilting, or using a character's movement to justify the shift in perspective. What is a Dutch angle used for?The Dutch angle is a camera angle used to create a sense of tension, unease, or disorientation in visual storytelling. It adds a dynamic and dramatic effect to a scene, evoking specific emotions and emphasizing particular elements.Why do they call it a Dutch angle?The term Dutch angle is believed to have originated from German filmmakers who used the technique. Its called Dutch as a misinterpretation of the German word Deutsch, meaning German.How many degrees is a Dutch angle?The degree of tilt in a Dutch angle can vary depending on the desired effect and creative intent. It can range from subtle tilts of a few degrees to more pronounced angles of 20 degrees or more.What movies use the Dutch angle?Numerous movies have utilized the Dutch angle camera shot to enhance their storytelling and visuals. Examples include The Third Man (1949), The Batman (2022), Inception (2010), Pulp Fiction (1994), Vertigo (1958), and the Mission: Impossible series. These films showcase the diverse applications of the Dutch angle in different genres and cinematic styles. Arguably the biggest evolution in recent years in the images and videos we see around us has been thanks to the arrival of drones: unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).Shots that were previously reliant on boom arms, jibs, and helicopters or were completely impossible have suddenly become accessible to anyone with as little as \$200 to spend and some willingness to learn drone photography. This guide is designed to help you improve as a drone photographer and videographer, whether you're starting out as a keen hobbyist or looking to become a professional drone operator.We'll be covering drone photography tips for both stills and video, helping you to develop your skills and become an accomplished drone photographer and filmmaker.Ready to get a birds-eye view with some exciting drone photography? Lets dive in! Highly Recommended Drone Cinematography Masterclass Become a drone cinematographer with 9 hours of aerial cinema tuition from YouTube's leading educators. Save \$50 with coupon code SHOTKIT50 Check Current Price The Mavic Mini is an excellent drone for beginners.Lets kick off this list of drone photography tips with some gear.If you're asking yourself, Which drone is best for photography? then don't worry; for those starting out, the obvious recommendation is one of three options from DJI: the Mavic Mini, the Mavic Air 2, and the Mavic Pro 2.The DJI Phantom 4 series is also popular, but due to its larger size and higher price point, it may not be ideal for beginners.The Phantom 4 Pro is the most popular model for professionals due to its excellent image quality, 3-axis gimbal and multiple flight modes.DJI has established itself as the biggest name in drone technology, and for good reason: its products are phenomenal.The above three photography drones are its main consumer models, coming in at different prices due to their size, resolution, flight time, and weight as well as a raft of other features.The DJI Mavic Mini 2 is an excellent place to start. This is DJI's smallest, lightest, and most affordable drone, but offers a superb set of specifications given the price.Perhaps what makes the DJI Mavic Mini 2 such a good option is that at 8.8 oz (249 grams) its just light enough that you don't need to register it with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in the U.S. or the Civil Aviation Authority in the U.K.Despite its diminutive size, the DJI Mavic Mini 2 shoots 12-megapixel stills and 4K video.It doesn't have object tracking, but it boasts a flight time of 30 minutes, includes OcuSync 2.0 for more reliable long-distance flying, creates surprisingly stable footage, and folds down small enough that it will fit inside a large jacket pocket.(If you're on a tighter budget, check out the first version Mavic Mini, reviewed here. Its still an excellent choice but lacks 4k video and OcuSync 2.0.)The middle sibling, the DJI Mavic Air 2 (review), is probably the companys most popular drone for beginners and hobbyists who are sure they're going to be spending a lot of time in the air.Its simple controls are made even easier not to mention safer by a ton of intelligent and automated features. It also offers great battery life and shoots video at 4K/60p, making it a great drone for both photography and video.For those seeking something a little more serious, the DJI Mavic Pro 2 is both the oldest and the biggest of the Mavic brothers but despite its age, it remains the obvious choice as DJI's flagship consumer drone.The one-inch camera sensor doesn't shoot the 4K/60 of the Mavic Air 2, but the physical size difference and 20 megapixels mean that you will get better image quality.Theres also a Mavic 2 Zoom, which features a 24mm-48mm focal length zoom lens. 2x zoom might not sound particularly impressive, but it can increase the dynamic perspectives it allows you, and is particularly useful when shooting video.This 20 megapixel resolution is critical if you want to use your drone primarily to create high-quality photographs and offers sufficient dynamic range for bringing back shadow and highlight detail while post-processing.Finally, there are FPV drones, which are notoriously tricky to control, let alone use to take photos. FPV drones are also used for drone racing here are the best FPV drones for immersive flying and racing.2. Learn the lawNext on our list of drone photography tips is something a little less exciting but essential nonetheless.Laws on where you can fly drones vary massively from country to country, with some even banning them outright. Before you invest in a drone, checking the regulations about flying your drone lawfully is absolutely critical.There are also extensive laws that govern things like flight paths, residential areas, and proximity to airports, as well as the maximum height and whether you're allowed to fly above people.You should build up your knowledge of all of these rules before you start flying drones.3. Get QualifiedDrone camera | Credit: lewek GnosThe certifications required to use a drone might seem like a barrier, but given that you'll learn these skills anyway and will need to be aware of the regulations, its barely an inconvenience.Furthermore, gaining these qualifications will mean that you'll have extensive knowledge of the rules surrounding the use of drones that are specific to your country or region.In the U.S., if you plan on using your drone for anything other than recreation, you'll need to get your Part 107 certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration.The requirements for lawful drone photography vary from country to country and its important to research fully in order to check that you aren't operating your drone illegally.In addition to the certifications required by specific countries and regions, it can be worth investing in other training courses to build up your skills and establish your C.V. as a drone operator. Many can be studied online.On top of all of this, you will need to keep in mind that the rules continue to change in order to try and keep up with progressions in technology.For example, the requirements in the U.K. changed in November 2019 and will undergo further updates as of January 2021.Which drone accessories should you buy first?4. Become a good pilotCredit: Ian BaldwinDrone photography and videography are not simply a case of buying a good drone, passing a quick theory test, and assuming that you can now capture beautiful aerial photos.The best drone photographers and videographers are also the best drone pilots. Learning how to fly should be the priority before you become concerned with your footage and aerial photographs.Essentially, every good drone creator will tell those starting out that its critical to become an excellent drone pilot before you can become a good drone photographer.Getting unique perspectives from your drone shots involves learning how to photograph views that are original and not seen in everyday life. Landscapes, for example, are typically seen at eye level, whereas a drone camera can shoot them from multiple angles.Every drone is different, but keep in mind everything you know about photography the rules of exposure, composition, colour, balance, time of day it all applies when you're trying to create great drone photos too.5. Learn your droneCredit: John ONolanThis may be an obvious one to include among our drone photography tips, but dont tune out just yet.Knowing your drone isn't just about being able to fly it accurately and safely. Its also about knowing how to make the most of the technology thats packed inside it.For example, many DJI drones come with an ActiveTrack mode that can make flying easier, allowing you to create sweeping cinematic shots with very little effort.The drone uses its sensors to ensure that its flight path is safe while keeping the camera directed at your chosen subject, even if that subject is moving.Know the limits of your drones camera. Typically, the sensor is smaller than consumer digital cameras, and wont be able to capture as much detail or dynamic range, particularly in low light.By knowing what the drones slightly more tedious one of the drone photography tips is related to packing spares of every little part of your beloved flying camera.Battery duration improves with every new model of drone that comes to market, but with flight times averaging between 20 and 30 minutes, you will want some extras to really make the most of your drone when shooting stills, as the greater level of precision makes it easier to finetune your position.It also gives the stability that you'll want when shooting time-lapses and hyperlapses.19. Use a flight simulator Responding to the lack of experienced drone pilots, flight simulators have emerged to help users learn how to fly something thats particularly useful when preparing for high-risk work such as inspecting power lines.Unfortunately, the best simulators tend only to be available to commercial clients well out of reach from the average photographer.Manufacturers such as DJI have gone to great lengths to replicate the experience of flying a drone and time spent using the DJI Flight Simulator will have an impact on your abilities as a pilot. Drone photography is using an unmanned aerial vehicle (aka camera drones) to capture stills and video from the skies.Typically, these photos would be otherwise impossible, using vantage points and creating camera movements that take advantage of the drones ability to fly.Drone photography has seen a huge growth in popularity due in part to the various consumer drones that have become available at attractively affordable prices. You can even get underwater drones now too!Drone shots tend to be popular on social media for landscape photography in particular due to the unique perspectives they offer. Most drone photographers will start out by choosing a drone which offers a high-quality camera for photography and video within their budget. Theres a large variety of models currently on the market, and at a wide range of price points.Fortunately, with imaging sensors improving (better image quality) and batteries and engines constantly getting smaller, costs are always coming down, image and video resolutions are going up, and flight times are increasing.Even an entry-level model drone such as the Ryze Tello (the best drone for kids) will give good results, and, importantly, it will get you familiar with how to fly.Building up your skills as a pilot for drone photography is absolutely essential, but before you take to the skies, its critical that you familiarise yourself with the rules.Depending on your drone of choice and location, you may be required to register your camera drone and get a certification, such as the FAA Part 107 in the U.S.A.Getting a certification like the Part 107 is not too challenging, but it does require you to commit to up to 20 hours of study and pay \$160 for the test. If you intend to make drone photography a commercial venture, its an essential step to getting started and building a business via flying your drone. Once you've mastered your drone, you may be considering capturing drone photos professionally. So how much can you charge?As with much photography and videography work, the answer varies massively depending on your experience, the type of work, the commercial scale, and perhaps most importantly the clients budget.It can also vary by sector, and you might find that capturing drone photos to create maps for agriculture will be very different to shooting a chase scene in a low-budget movie.Usefully, however, the UAV Coach website has a detailed article which should give you an indication of what to expect. For example, conducting surveys for construction and mining firms can start at as little as \$50 per hour, increasing to \$500 per hour once you've built up your experience in flying, shot plenty of aerial photos and established some relationships in your drone market.Many drone operators gain an income by working in real estate, and this starts off at around \$25 per hour but can pay around \$200-300 per project, again depending on the scale and how extensive your portfolio is.If you're getting started as a professional, one option for picking up work and gaining some experience is to apply to become a pilot with websites such as DroneBase, which offer jobs according to your location and expertise.Read more: 15 Ways to Make Money From Drone Photography The world of drone photography and videography is vast, but while theres a lot to learn, the results can be incredibly satisfying.Hopefully, the tips above will give you a good foundation from which to start flying drones and taking amazing photos from the skies.If you have any questions or further advice to add, feel free to leave us a comment below. 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