Which Lens Should I Buy Tips

Mentor Night – 10 Minute Kickoff

Lens prices vary widely, spanning from budget-friendly options to high-end choices.

Canon Examples (33 RF lens choices)	
50mm F1.8	$170
24-50mm F4.5-6.3	$300
24-105mm F4-7.1	$400
15-30mm F4.5-6.3	$550
100-400mm F5.6-8	$649
24-240mm F4-6.3	$900
24-105mm F4 L	$1,300
24-70mm F2.8 L	$2,100
28-70mm F2 L	$3,100
100-300mm F2.8 L	$9,500

Extreme Comparisons	
100-400mm F5.6-8	$649
100-500mm F4.5-7.1 L	$2,600
800mm F11 (3 pounds)	$1,000
800mm F5.6 L (7 pounds)	$17,000

Third-party Lens – e.g. Sigma for Sony	
May be an option to consider	

"Wallet-friendly" lenses allow more flexibility to try different focal lengths.

1. Optical Quality

Higher-end lens marketing uses lots of technical points to sound superior.

Questions

- Can you “see” a difference that is worth the extra expense?

Example marketing

- Budget lenses often provide decent optical quality suitable for general photography. However, they may have limitations in terms of sharpness, chromatic aberration, and distortion, especially in challenging lighting conditions.
- Higher-end lenses typically offer superior optical quality with sharper images, reduced distortion, and better control over issues like chromatic aberration. They excel in delivering high-quality results, even in demanding situations.

2. Build Quality

Higher-end lens tend to be durable & resistant to moisture and dust

Questions

- What type of situations are you photographing?
- How often do you photograph in the rain?
- Do you plan to use your lens for 1,000s of photo opportunities?

Example marketing

- Budget lenses tend to be constructed with more affordable materials, making them lightweight but less durable. They may not withstand rough handling or adverse weather conditions as effectively.
- Higher-End Lenses: Higher-end lenses are built with premium materials, ensuring durability and resistance to moisture and dust. They often have robust metal housings, weather sealing, and smoother manual focus rings.

3. Aperture Range

Budget lenses usually have larger F-stop numbers requiring more “light”

Questions

- How often do you really need an aperture number less than F5 or F6?
- Are you shooting in low light situations without a flash?

Example marketing

- Budget Lenses: Budget lenses usually have minimum F-stop numbers that are larger, which can limit their performance in low light and depth-of-field control.
- Higher-End Lenses: Higher-end lenses often feature minimum F-stop numbers that are smaller, allowing for better low-light performance and the creation of striking background blur (bokeh).

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Lens prices vary widely, spanning from budget-friendly options to high-end choices.

Which one should I go for?

Summary

- Look at how you will use the lens.
- Evaluate the tradeoffs.
- Consider borrowing or renting a higher-end lens to test it.
- Better gear will never save a poor photo choice.