

Lesson Eight

Following the Rule of Thirds, or NOT

Exercise 1

Indicate whether each statement below is true or false by circling the appropriate answer in the right-hand column.

Statement	Answer
a. The rule of thirds indicates a viewing area should be divided into thirds horizontally and vertically and then the subject should be aligned on or near one of the horizontal or vertical lines or where the lines cross.	True False
b. In composing a photo that includes the horizon, the horizon line should be positioned on or near the top horizontal line if the sky is of more interest.	True False
c. A subject that is moving to your right should be aligned on or near the right vertical line or one of the two intersection points on the right.	True False
d. A person's eyes should be aligned on or near the top horizontal line in portrait photos.	True False
e. The rule of thirds should always be followed.	True False

Exercise 2

Tip 3 in Lesson Eight of the *Cool & Composed* lesson book recommends positioning a subject so it appears as if it's moving into a photo. It further explains where to position a subject that's moving to your right or to your left. What if the subject is moving up or down? For example, assume you're trying to capture a boy riding on a dirt bike course. In particular, assume you are at the bottom of a hill and you want to capture the boy just after he rides over the top of the hill (so he's heading down the hill). Where should you try to align him with respect to the rule of thirds grid?

- a. On or near the left vertical line
- b. On or near the right vertical line
- c. On or near the top horizontal line
- d. On or near the bottom horizontal line

Exercise 3

Both of these photos were taken at the North Carolina Zoo. Which photo captures the symmetry of an animal (HINT: Tip 5 in Lesson Eight of the *Cool & Composed* lesson book suggests centering a symmetrical subject or scene instead of following the rule of thirds) (3a or 3b)? _____



3a



3b

Activity 1

Find a subject or scene that is not symmetrical (is asymmetrical). Follow the rule of thirds in taking a photo of it. To make this activity easier, see if your camera allows you to show a grid on the camera's display or viewfinder. Compose another photo where you center the subject or scene. Which photo looks better? Can you see why the rule of thirds is helpful?