

Easy English Today: Photography with Minh

Level: A2-B1 | Duration: 1-2 minutes

TRANSCRIPTION

Hello, welcome to Easy English Today with Minh! Today, I want to share my passion for photography.

My name is Minh, and I'm absolutely fascinated by photography. Every weekend, I go out and take photographs of nature, people, and interesting places. I mainly photograph landscapes, but I also love portrait photography.

Last Sunday, I went to a beautiful waterfall in the countryside. First, I arrived early in the morning to catch the golden light. Then, I looked for the best angle and set up my camera. After that, I adjusted the camera settings to get the right exposure. While I was shooting, I noticed some beautiful birds near the water, so I photographed them too. Finally, after two hours, I had captured over three hundred amazing images!

Photography is more than just a hobby for me—it's my way of seeing the world. It teaches me to notice small details and appreciate beauty. I also enjoy sharing my photos on social media, and my followers really encourage me. The best part is when people tell me that my photographs inspire them to explore new places.

Do you take photographs? What do you like to photograph—nature, people, or something else? If you could take a photo of anything in the world, what would it be? I'd love to hear about it!

Thank you for listening. Keep creating, and see you next time!

TRANSCRIPTION WITH IPA

Easy English Today with Minh

Hello, welcome to Easy English Today with Minh!

/hə'ləʊ | 'wɛlkəm | tə | 'i:zi | 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ | tə'deɪ | wɪð | mɪn/

Today, I want to share my passion for photography.

/tə'deɪ | aɪ | wɒnt | tə | ʃə | maɪ | 'pæʃən | fə | fə'tɒgrəfi/

My name is Minh, and I'm absolutely fascinated by photography.

/maɪ | neɪm | ɪz | mɪn | ənd | aɪm | 'æbsəlu:tli | 'fæsɪneɪtɪd | baɪ | fə'tɒgrəfi/

Every weekend, I go out and take photographs of nature, people, and interesting places.

/'evri | 'wi:kend | aɪ | gəʊ | aʊt | ənd | teɪk | 'fəʊtəgræfs | əv | 'neɪtʃə | 'pi:pl | ənd | 'ɪntərəstɪŋ | pleɪsɪz/

I mainly photograph landscapes, but I also love portrait photography.

/aɪ | 'meɪnli | 'fəʊtəgræf | 'lændskeɪps | bət | aɪ | 'ɔ:lsoʊ | lʌv | 'pɔ:trət | fə'tɒgrəfi/

Last Sunday, I went to a beautiful waterfall in the countryside.

/lɑ:st | 'sʌndeɪ | aɪ | wɛnt | tə | ə | 'bjʊ:tɪfəl | 'wɔ:təfɔ:l | ɪn | ðə | 'kʌntrisaɪd/

First, I arrived early in the morning to catch the golden light.

/fɜ:st | aɪ | ə'raɪvd | 'ɜ:li | ɪn | ðə | 'mɔ:nɪŋ | tə | kætʃ | ðə | 'gəʊldən | laɪt/

Then, I looked for the best angle and set up my camera.

/ðɛn | aɪ | 'lʊkt | fə | ðə | bɛst | 'æŋɡəl | ənd | sɛt | ʌp | maɪ | 'kæməɾə/

After that, I adjusted the camera settings to get the right exposure.

/'ɑ:ftə | ðæt | aɪ | ə'dʒʌstɪd | ðə | 'kæməɾə | 'sɛtɪŋz | tə | ɡɛt | ðə | raɪt | ɪk'spəʊʒə/

While I was shooting, I noticed some beautiful birds near the water, so I photographed them too.

/waɪl | aɪ | wəz | 'ʃu:tɪŋ | aɪ | 'nəʊtɪst | səm | 'bjʊ:tɪfəl | bɜ:dz | nɪə | ðə | 'wɔ:tə | soʊ | aɪ | 'fəʊtəgræfd | ðɛm | tu:/

Finally, after two hours, I had captured over three hundred amazing images!

/'faɪnəli | 'ɑ:ftə | tu: | 'aʊəz | aɪ | həd | 'kæptʃəd | 'əʊvə | θri: | 'hʌndrəd | ə'meɪzɪŋ | 'ɪmɪdʒɪz/

Photography is more than just a hobby for me—it's my way of seeing the world.

/fə'tɒgrəfi | ɪz | mɔ: | ðən | dʒʌst | ə | 'hɒbi | fə | mi: | ɪts | maɪ | weɪ | əv | 'si:ɪŋ | ðə | wɜ:ld/

It teaches me to notice small details and appreciate beauty.

/ɪt | 'ti:tʃɪz | mi | tə | 'nəʊtɪs | smɔ:l | 'di:teɪlz | ənd | ə'pri:ʃeɪt | 'bjʊ:ti/

I also enjoy sharing my photos on social media, and my followers really encourage me.

/aɪ | 'ɔ:lsoʊ | ɪn'dʒɔɪ | 'ʃeəriŋ | maɪ | 'fɒtəʊz | ɒn | 'soʊʃəl | 'mi:diə | ənd | maɪ | 'fɒləʊəz |
'ri:li | ɪn'kʌrɪdʒ | mi/

The best part is when people tell me that my photographs inspire them to explore new places.

/ðə | bɛst | pɑ:rt | ɪz | wɛn | 'pi:pl | tɛl | mi | ðæt | maɪ | 'fɒtəgræfs | ɪn'spaɪə | ðɛm | tə |
ɪk'splɔ:r | nju: | pleɪsɪz/

Do you take photographs? What do you like to photograph—nature, people, or something else?

/du: | ju: | teɪk | 'fɒtəgræfs | wɒt | du: | ju: | laɪk | tə | 'fɒtəgræf | 'nɛɪtʃə | 'pi:pl | ɔ: | 'sʌmθɪŋ
| ɛls/

If you could take a photo of anything in the world, what would it be?

/ɪf | ju: | kəd | teɪk | ə | 'fɒtəʊ | əv | 'ɛniθɪŋ | ɪn | ðə | wɜ:ld | wɒt | wəd | ɪt | bi/

I'd love to hear about it!

/aɪd | lʌv | tə | hɪə | ə'baʊt | ɪt/

Thank you for listening. Keep creating, and see you next time!

/θæŋk | ju: | fə | 'lɪsənɪŋ | ki:p | kri:'eɪtɪŋ | ənd | si: | ju: | nɛkst | taɪm/

VOCABULARY

Word	Pronunciation	Definition	Example
photography	/fə'tɒgrəfi/	The art of taking and producing photographs	Photography is my favourite hobby.
fascinated	/'fæsɪneɪtɪd/	Extremely interested in something	I'm fascinated by old buildings.
landscape	/'lændskeɪp/	A view of countryside, mountains, etc.	The landscape was beautiful.
portrait	/'pɔ:trət/	A photograph of a person	She took a lovely portrait of her daughter.
angle	/'æŋɡəl/	The position from which something is viewed	He found the perfect angle for the photo.

exposure	/ɪk'spəʊʒə/	The amount of light allowed in a photograph	The exposure was too bright.
capture	/ˈkæptʃə/	To take a photograph or record an image	I captured the sunset beautifully.
golden light	/ˈɡəʊldən laɪt/	Warm, beautiful light at sunrise or sunset	The golden light made the scene magical.
passion	/ˈpæʃən/	A strong, intense feeling about something	His passion for art is inspiring.
detail	/ˈdiːteɪl/	A small or particular part of something	Notice the details in the background.
appreciate	/əˈpriːʃieɪt/	To recognise and enjoy the good qualities	I appreciate good photography.
inspire	/ɪnˈspaɪə/	To motivate or encourage someone	Her photos inspire people.
explore	/ɪkˈsplɔːr/	To travel around an area to discover it	I love to explore new places.
social media	/ˈsəʊʃəl 'miːdiə/	Websites where people share content online	I share my photos on social media.
follower	/ˈfɒləʊə/	A person who follows someone online	My followers give me feedback.

GRAMMAR POINTS

1. Present Simple (Habitual Actions)

Form: Subject + Base Verb **Usage:** Regular or repeated actions

Examples from podcast:

- "I go out and take photographs every weekend."
- "I mainly photograph landscapes."
- "I enjoy sharing my photos on social media."

2. Present Perfect Continuous (Ongoing Activity)

Form: Subject + have/has + been + -ing verb **Usage:** Actions that started in the past and continue to the present

Example:

- "I'm absolutely fascinated by photography." (I have been fascinated and still am)

3. Past Simple (Completed Actions)

Form: Subject + Past Verb **Usage:** Actions that happened at a specific time in the past

Examples:

- "Last Sunday, I went to a beautiful waterfall."
- "I arrived early in the morning."
- "I adjusted the camera settings."

4. Sequencing Words (First, Then, After That, Finally)

Usage: To show the order of events

Example:

- "First, I arrived early. Then, I looked for the best angle. After that, I adjusted the settings. Finally, I captured amazing images."

5. Past Continuous (Actions in Progress)

Form: Subject + was/were + -ing verb **Usage:** An action that was happening when another action occurred

Example:

- "While I was shooting, I noticed some beautiful birds."

6. Present Perfect (Experience)

Form: Subject + have/has + Past Participle **Usage:** To talk about experiences or achievements

Example:

- "I've been interested in photography for many years."

7. Conditional Sentences (Type 2)

Form: If + Past Simple, + would + Base Verb **Usage:** Imaginary or hypothetical situations

Example:

- "If you could take a photo of anything, what would it be?"
-

KEY EXPRESSIONS

Expression	Meaning	Example
"I'm fascinated by..."	I'm extremely interested in...	I'm fascinated by nature photography.
"I mainly..."	I usually/mostly...	I mainly photograph landscapes.
"to catch the light"	To capture good lighting conditions	I arrived early to catch the golden light.
"set up my camera"	To prepare and arrange the camera	I set up my camera on a tripod.
"to adjust settings"	To change camera configurations	I adjusted the settings for better exposure.
"I noticed..."	I saw/became aware of...	I noticed some beautiful birds.
"more than just..."	Much more important than...	Photography is more than just a hobby.
"to appreciate beauty"	To recognise and enjoy beautiful things	I appreciate the beauty in nature.
"inspire someone"	To motivate or encourage	My photos inspire people to travel.
"I'd love to hear..."	I want to know/would enjoy hearing	I'd love to hear about your hobby.

LEARNING TIPS

✓ **Pronunciation Focus:** Pay special attention to:

- "photography" /fəˈtɒɡrəfi/ (British) vs /fəˈtɑːɡrəfi/ (American)
- "exposure" /ɪkˈspəʊʒə/
- "capture" /ˈkæptʃə/

✓ **Sequencing is Key:** The structure "First → Then → After that → Finally" is essential for A2-B1 learners and appears frequently in spoken English.

✓ **Notice the Mix of Tenses:**

- Present Simple for habitual actions
- Past Simple for the story of one day
- Present Perfect when discussing experience

✓ **Collocations to Learn:**

- catch the light / catch the moment
- set up / adjust settings
- share photos / take photographs
- appreciate beauty / notice details

✓ **British vs American English:**

- This lesson uses British pronunciation and spelling
 - Notice: "colour" → "exposure" (same in both)
-

SAMPLE RESPONSE ACTIVITY

Try answering these questions:

Easy Level:

1. What is Sarah's hobby?
2. Where did Sarah go last Sunday?
3. How many photos did she take?

Medium Level: 4. What are the two types of photography Sarah enjoys? 5. Why is photography important to Sarah? (Give 2-3 reasons) 6. What does she like about sharing her photos?

Advanced Level: 7. Use sequencing words: Describe a hobby activity step-by-step using "First, Then, After that, Finally..." 8. Imagine you are a photographer. Describe what you would photograph and why. 9. Compare Sarah's hobby with yours. What's similar? What's different?

SUGGESTED DIALOGUE PRACTICE

Friend A: "Do you have any hobbies?" **Friend B:** "Yes, I'm fascinated by [hobby]. Every weekend, I..."

Friend A: "That sounds interesting! Can you describe a typical day?" **Friend B:** "Sure! First, I... Then, I... After that, I... Finally, I..."

Friend A: "How does it make you feel?" **Friend B:** "It helps me... I also appreciate..."

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Activity 1: Create Your Hobby Speech Record yourself talking about your hobby using the same structure as Sarah's speech. Include:

- Introduction of your hobby
- What you do and when
- A specific story/example (using past simple + sequencing)
- Why you enjoy it
- A question for listeners

Activity 2: Photo Description Describe a photograph using these prompts:

- "In this photo, I can see..."
- "The photographer captured..."
- "The lighting is..."
- "It inspires me to..."

Activity 3: Role Play Work with a partner:

- Student A: Interview Student B about their hobby
- Use: "What?", "When?", "Why?", "How often?"
- Student B: Answer using present simple, past simple, and sequencing words