



LESSON

13

*Pre-Reading Preparation*

1. Do you own a digital camera? Are you interested in photography as a hobby?
2. What do you know about photo-editing software such as Paint Shop or Photoshop?

# My Life as a Digital Camera

1 Okay, so I'm small, but it's not that bad. After  
all I can see people from the most interesting  
angles and can often get into tight spaces much  
5 easier than most. I've traveled all over the world  
and can tell you a million stories if you just take  
the time to look.

The story that is currently within me is one that  
took me to an outdoor wedding. I can show you  
10 the whitest of orchids in crystal clear form, a  
bride's smile that **surpasses** all others in the room,  
and all the **hugging** and laughter and crying that  
**highlight** this wonderful day. My **shutter speed**  
and **aperture** settings were working hand in  
15 hand **in the midst of** all this excitement to **capture**  
in clarity the finest of movements; like the tear  
falling down the bride's face, her **veil** moving as  
she danced, and the beautiful ring that wrapped  
around her finger.

20 If you want me to I can hook up to your computer,  
phone or laptop and let you **alter**, share, **enhance** or  
**revamp** my memories. Play around with the colors

25 and **textures** by using Photoshop or Paint Shop. I get along wonderfully with both and allow you to make each captured moment truly your own.

I may be the quietest one at parties and events but I can **guarantee** you that I will be the one with the most stories to tell afterwards. I can spend a whole day or night with you, your family members, or your friends, and make it a wonderful and memorable time for any of them. And if by **rare** chance I ever make you or any of them look bad I know just what to do to make it disappear as if it never happened at all!

40 You know it's only been since 1991 that people really started to pay attention to me. I just kept quiet and went along with most anybody who needed my help, or needed me to be with them at important moments. Now it seems like everyone knows who I am and I am so busy that I rarely ever get to just **unwind** and shut off. Even while sitting up top of a **tripod** I am still working. But, hey, who am I to complain?

50 I love to be with all of you for all of your special moments; in times of being silly and playful, and even to be there with you when you're sad. All I ask is for you to protect me when needed, not lose me when we're out, and try not to introduce me to **irresponsible** people. And if all that happens then it's a pretty good life; being a digital camera that is!

**alter** *v.* to change; modify. Alix's costume alters her appearance so much, I didn't even recognize her.

**aperture** *n.* an opening in a camera that lets light pass through the lens. The photographer has to adjust the aperture in dim light.

**capture** *v.* to represent something in an artistic medium. The movie captured the horror of war.

**enhance** *v.* improve. The fresh paint enhances the appearance of this room.

**guarantee** *v.* to promise something; assure. Jack guarantees we will enjoy watching these DVD's.

**highlight** *v.* to draw attention to something. The newspaper article highlighted the growing problem of drug use in schools.

**hugging** *n.* (*gerund*) an affectionate embrace. The teenage boys were embarrassed by all the hugging at the family reunion.

**in the midst of** *phrase* indicates that someone or something is surrounded by activity, people, things or events; among. I couldn't hear my phone ring in the midst of the noisy crowd.

**irresponsible** *adj.* not caring about the consequences of one's actions; careless; negligent. It is irresponsible and dangerous to exceed the speed limit.

**rare** *adj.* not often found or occurring; uncommon; few; infrequent. Prize-winning lottery tickets are rare.

**revamp** *v.* to improve something. We revamped the gym for the dance by hanging colored lights and streamers.

**shutter speed** *n.* In photography, the length of time the shutter is open allowing light to enter. Tim's camera adjusts the shutter speed automatically.

**surpass** *v.* to be exceedingly better or worse than someone or something. Leah's video game scores surpass everyone's.

**texture** *n.* the way a substance looks and feels, usually how rough or smooth it is. Margot's brick floors are pretty, but the rough texture hurts her feet.

**tripod** *n.* a three-legged stand used to support a camera. If we use the timer switch and the tripod, we can all be in the photo.

**unwind** *v.* to relax. At the end of a long day I like to unwind with a good book.

**veil** *n.* a piece of sheer fabric or lace worn as a headdress by a bride, sometimes covering the face. Rachel's veil was twelve feet long and trailed behind her as she walked down the aisle.

## Vocabulary Exercise

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### A. Fill in the Blanks:

*alter*   *enhance*   *guarantee*   *irresponsible*   *rare*  
*surpass*   *texture*   *tripod*   *unwind*   *veil*

1. The photographer arrived early for the wedding so he could set up his \_\_\_\_\_ and camera.
2. Although Claire found the perfect wedding dress easily, it took her months to find a \_\_\_\_\_ she liked.
3. Brent is happy because the gas mileage that his new car gets \_\_\_\_\_ what his old truck got.
4. I think raw oysters taste good, but I don't like the slippery \_\_\_\_\_.
5. David is going to \_\_\_\_\_ his dinner party menu to make it suitable for the vegetarians in the group.
6. Sarah is too \_\_\_\_\_ to be a babysitter. She spends hours online and on the phone and forgets to watch the children.
7. Patricia's antique book collection is valuable because she has many extremely \_\_\_\_\_ books from the 1800's.
8. I plan to spent Friday night \_\_\_\_\_ at home watching TV.
9. Most chefs agree that a pinch of salt \_\_\_\_\_ the flavor of the food.
10. My hairdresser \_\_\_\_\_ that the shampoo she sold me would make my hair shinier.

## Vocabulary Exercise

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### B. Multiple Choice:

1. After all I can see people from the most interesting angles and can often get into tight spaces...
  - a. small places
  - b. difficult situations
  - c. high spots
2. A bride's smile that surpasses all others in the room.
  - a. affects everybody
  - b. charms everybody
  - c. outshines everybody
3. I... allow you to make each captured moment truly your own.
  - a. each moment in time
  - b. each photograph
  - c. each memory
4. And if by rare chance...
  - a. an uncommon occurrence
  - b. every so often
  - c. by mistake
5. Now it seems like everyone knows who I am and I am so busy that I rarely ever get to just unwind and shut off.
  - a. I don't get to wind the film.
  - b. I don't get to relax and be switched off.
  - c. I don't get to give up and quit.

## Grammar Point

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Similar to recounting facts, when we narrate somebody else's statement, we use past tenses, unless, again, the statement is a timeless fact. Practice narration by filling in the blanks with the proper verb form.

1. Judy: I can see people from the most interesting angles.

Judy told me that she \_\_\_\_\_ people from the most interesting angles.

2. Tom: My shutter speed and aperture settings are working together to capture the finest movement.

Tom said his shutter speed and aperture settings \_\_\_\_\_ together to capture the finest movement.

3. Kent: My camera captures the finest clarity when it is sitting on top of a tripod.

Kent said his camera \_\_\_\_\_ the finest clarity when it \_\_\_\_\_ on top of a tripod.

4. Bride: Tears are falling down my face when I walk into the room.

The bride said tears \_\_\_\_\_ down her face when she \_\_\_\_\_ into the room.

5. Mr. Thomas: I go along with anybody who needs my help.

Mr. Thomas said he \_\_\_\_\_ along with anybody who \_\_\_\_\_ his help.

6. Teacher: You can easily change the colors and textures by using Photoshop or Paint Shop.

My teacher told me I \_\_\_\_\_ easily \_\_\_\_\_ the color and textures by using Photoshop or Paint Shop.

7. TV Actor: It's only since 2006 that people have started to pay attention to me.

The actor said people \_\_\_\_\_ to pay attention to him only since 2006.

8. Grandma: I had traveled all over the world before I reached 50 years old.

Grandma said she \_\_\_\_\_ all over the world before she reached 50 years old.



