Before taking a photograph with a new camera, be sure you have completed the following steps:

0.1 **Turn the camera on and check the battery level**
When the camera is turned on (A), the battery level is shown in the control panel on top of the camera (B). Check the battery level as described in Step 1 of “First Steps” (pg. 36).

![Battery Level](image)

0.2 **Check the number of exposures remaining**
The number of photographs that can be stored on the memory card at current settings is shown in the top.

![Exposures Remaining](image)

When this number reaches zero, the **Cd** (card) indicator in the viewfinder and the **CARD** icons in the top and rear control panels will blink. Before you will be able to take more photographs, you will need to delete some photos or insert another memory card. You may also be able to take additional photographs at a different image-quality setting.
35—Rear Control Panel Display (pg. 183)

When Frame Count is selected for Custom Setting 35, the number of exposures remaining will also be shown in the rear control panel.

For more information on:

- pg. 23 Checking the battery level
- pg. 184 Resetting camera settings
- pg. 104 Adjusting viewfinder diopter
- pg. 140 Creating new folders
- pg. 129 Deleting images
- pg. 56 Image quality
This section describes how to take a photograph using single-frame mode, single-servo autofocus, matrix metering, programmed auto-exposure, a sensitivity (ISO equivalency) setting of 200, a normal image quality setting, and auto white balance. The description below assumes that you are using a type G or D AF-Nikkor lens. These settings will produce optimal results in most situations, with no delay between exposures to adjust camera settings for the next shot. To use these settings, adjust camera controls as shown in the following steps. More information on the settings described here is available on the pages listed below.

1.1 Choose an operating mode ([pp. 52–55])
Hold the mode-dial lock release down and turn the mode dial to S (single-frame mode). In this mode, the camera will take a single photograph each time the shutter-release button is pressed.

1.2 Choose an image quality and format ([pp. 56–61])
This section describes how to take color photographs at an image quality of JPEG Normal, which provides the best trade-off between file size and image quality.

Press the MENU button to display the camera menus (A), then unlock the multi selector and press it up or down until the shooting menu is displayed (B). Press the multi selector to the right to enter the shooting menu (C).

---

The Assign FUNC Menu ([pg. 116])
When Qual is selected in the Assign FUNC menu, image quality can be adjusted using the FUNC button in combination with the command dials.
Highlight **Image Quality** (D) and press the multi selector to the right to display the Image Quality menu (E).

Highlight **Quality** (F) and press the multi selector to the right to display the Quality menu (G).

Highlight **JPEG Normal** (H) and press the multi selector to the right to put your choice into effect and return to the Image Quality menu (I).
1—Adjusting Camera Settings (continued)

STEP 1

1.3 Adjust sensitivity (ISO equivalency) (pp. 62–63)

Holding the ISO button down (A), turn the main command dial (B) until **200** is shown in the top and the rear control panel (C). This sets the sensitivity (the digital equivalent of film speed) to a value roughly equivalent to ISO 200.

Repeat C–D to display the Image Quality menu, then highlight Color (J) and press the multi selector to the right to display the Color menu (K).

Highlight Color (L) and press the multi selector to the right to put your choice into effect and return to the Image Quality menu (M). Press the **OK** button to return to the shooting menu.
1.4 Choose a white-balance setting (pp. 64–69)

Holding the [WB] button down (A), turn the main command dial (B) until [A] (auto white balance) is shown in the rear control panel (C). At this setting, the camera will automatically adjust white balance to produce good results for most common light sources.

1.5 Choose a focus mode (pp. 70–71)

Turn the focus-mode selector until it clicks into place pointing to [S] (single-servo autofocus). The camera will automatically focus on the subject in the selected focus area when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway. Photographs can only be taken when the camera is in focus. Do not attempt to adjust focus using the lens focusing ring.
1.6 Choose the AF-area mode (pp. 74–77)

Set the AF-area mode to single-area AF using the shooting menu as described below.

Press the MENU button to display the camera menus (A), then unlock the multi selector and press it up or down until the shooting menu is displayed (B). Press the multi selector to the right to enter the shooting menu (C).

Highlight **AF Area Mode** (D) and press the multi selector to the right to display the AF Area Mode menu (E).

Highlight **Single Area AF** (F) and press the multi selector to the right to put your choice into effect and return to the shooting menu (G). Press the MENU button to clear the menu from the monitor.
1.7 Select a focus area (pg. 73)
Unlock the multi selector (A) and press it up and down, left and right until the center focus area is selected in the viewfinder and the control panel on top of the camera (B). Return the multi selector lock to the locked position.

1.8 Choose a metering method (pp. 82–83)
Keeping the metering-selector lock-release held down (A-1), turn the metering selector to (matrix metering; A-2). The matrix-metering indicator will appear in the viewfinder (B). Matrix metering uses information from all areas of the frame to determine exposure, producing the best possible exposure for the entire frame.

The Assign FUNC Menu (pg. 116)
When AF Area is selected in the Assign FUNC menu, AF-area mode can be adjusted using the button in combination with the main command dial.
1.9 Choose an exposure mode (pp. 84–95)
With the MODE button held down (A), turn the main command dial (B) until the exposure-mode indicator in the top control panel shows P (programmed auto exposure; C). The camera will automatically adjust shutter speed and aperture to produce the optimal exposure for your subject. Exposure is set according to the camera’s exposure program.

Non-CPU Lenses
Programmed auto exposure is only available when a CPU lens is used. When a non-CPU lens is mounted on the camera, the exposure mode will automatically be set to aperture-priority auto. The exposure-mode indicator in the top control panel will show a flashing P, the exposure-mode indicator in the viewfinder, A. Aperture will be shown in the control panel and viewfinder as F —. Aperture must be set manually using the lens aperture ring.
When framing photographs, hold the camera as shown below, with your elbow propped lightly against your torso for support. Hold the hand-grip in your right hand and cradle the camera or lens with your left. The shutter-release button for portrait photographs can be used when the camera is in vertical shooting (B).

The recommended stance for taking photographs is with one foot a half-pace in front of the other and your upper body in a stable position.

Avoid taking photographs with the camera focused on the sun or other strong light source. Intense light may cause deterioration in the charge-coupled device (CCD) that the camera uses in place of film. It may also produce a white blur effect in the final photograph.

### Shutter Speed and Camera Shake

To prevent blurring caused by camera shake, the shutter speed should be faster than the inverse of the focal length of the lens, in seconds (for example, if the lens has a focal length of 50 mm, shutter speed should be faster than $1/50$ s). Use of a tripod is recommended when shooting at slower shutter speeds.
In single-servo AF, the camera focuses on the subject in the selected focus area when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway. Center the focus brackets on your subject (A) and press the shutter-release button halfway (B).
The camera will adjust focus automatically, and the results of the autofocus operation will be displayed in the viewfinder.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Viewfinder Display</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>•</td>
<td>The subject is in focus.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>▼</td>
<td>The camera is focused on an area between camera and subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◀</td>
<td>The camera is focused on an area behind the subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◀ ◀</td>
<td>The focus indicator flashes to warn that the camera is unable to focus using autofocus. For more information on what to do when the camera can not focus using autofocus, see “Getting Good Results with Autofocus” (pg. 80).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The viewfinder shows approximately 96% of the image actually exposed on the CCD. The area that appears in the final photo will be slightly larger than the scene visible through the viewfinder.

For more information on:

- pg. 73  Focus-area selection
- pg. 78  Focus lock
- pg. 104 Viewfinder diopter
4—Checking Exposure

When the shutter-release button is pressed halfway, the camera will automatically adjust shutter speed and aperture for optimal results. Check the shutter speed and aperture indicators in the viewfinder before shooting. If the photo will be over- or under-exposed, one of the following indicators will appear in the viewfinder and in the control panel on top of the camera.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HI</td>
<td>Photo will be overexposed. Use a neutral density (ND) filter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lo</td>
<td>Photo will be underexposed. Use a flash.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2—EV Steps for Exposure Control (pg. 161)

By default, aperture and shutter speed are shown in the smallest possible increments. Use Custom Setting 2 to change the size of the increments used when displaying aperture, shutter speed, and exposure compensation.
5—Shooting

Press the shutter-release button smoothly all the way down to take a photograph.

While the photograph is being recorded to the memory card, the card access lamp will light. Do not eject the memory card, turn the camera off, remove the battery, or unplug the AC adapter (available separately) until the lamp has stopped blinking. Removing the card or cutting power in these circumstances could result in loss of data.

Your camera is equipped with a combined electronic (CCD) and mechanical shutter. This shutter operates on a different principle from the mechanical shutters found in film cameras. As a result, the interval between the sounds made by the shutter and mirror will not decrease past a certain point, even at high shutter speeds.

I—Image Review (pg. 161)

Using this setting, you can choose whether images are displayed automatically in the LCD monitor while they are recorded to the memory card, or if images are only displayed when the button is pressed.
Photographs stored on the memory card can be displayed at the touch of a button, even when the camera is not in playback mode. This allows the results of a photograph to be confirmed almost instantly. If you are not satisfied with the photograph, you can adjust settings and take another shot. Any shots you do not want to keep can be deleted immediately.

### 6.1 Turn the monitor on

Press the button to turn the monitor on (A). The most recent photograph will be displayed in the monitor (B).

If the memory card contains no photographs, the message, “No image in current folder” will be displayed. Press the button to turn the monitor off.

### 6.2 Select a photograph

To view the other photographs in memory, press the multi selector up or down. Press up to view photographs taken before the current photograph, down to view photographs taken after the current photograph. Keep the multi selector pressed to scroll rapidly to the desired frame number. When the last photograph taken is selected, pressing the multi selector down will display the first photograph on the memory card. Pressing the selector up when the first image in memory is selected will display the most recent photograph.

### The button

If you press the button to turn the monitor on after taking a photograph, the most recent photograph will be displayed. If you turned the monitor off with the menus displayed, however, the menus will be displayed when you next turn the monitor on.

### 18—Monitor Off Delay (pg. 170)

By default, the monitor will turn off automatically to save power if no operations are performed for twenty seconds. Custom Setting 18 can be used to adjust the length of time before the monitor turns off automatically.
If the card contains multiple images, you may find it convenient to select the image you wish to view from a menu of thumbnail images, rather than scrolling through the photos one frame at a time. Turn the main command dial while holding down the button to cycle through views as follows: single-frame ↔ four-thumbnail display ↔ nine-thumbnail display ↔ single-frame.

6.3 **Zoom in on the selected photograph**

To zoom in on the selected thumbnail or on the photograph displayed in single-frame review, press the button (A). The center portion of the photograph will be enlarged to fill the monitor (B).

To view other areas of the photo, press the multi selector. To cancel zoom and return to normal review, press the button a second time.

For approximately two seconds after you press the button to zoom in on the image, or after you press the multi selector to scroll the image, a thumbnail showing your current position in the image will appear in the bottom right corner of the display.
6.4 View photo information on the selected photograph

To view photo information on an image displayed in single-frame review, press the multi selector right or left (to learn more about the photo information display, see “Reference: Playback”).

A

6.5 Delete undesired photographs

In single-frame or thumbnail review, pressing the button (A) selects the current image for deletion. A confirmation dialog will be displayed (B), press a second time to delete the photograph and return to single-frame or thumbnail review. Pressing any other button cancels the delete operation, leaving the selected photograph untouched.

A

B

6.6 Return to shooting mode

Pressing the button at any time during review turns the monitor off and returns the camera to shooting mode. Pressing the shutter-release button halfway also turns the monitor off and readies it for the next shot.