

Choice of Lens

Type of camera

1. Fixed lens
 - Fixed focal length – 'prime' lens
 - Range of focal lengths – 'zoom' lens
2. Changeable lens
 - Fixed focal length – 'prime' lens
 - Range of focal lengths – 'zoom' lens

Lens characteristics

Prime & Zoom

- Maximum aperture
- Closest focusing distance
- Image stabilisation

Prime lenses

- Wide angle - <35mm
- Standard – 35 to 70mm
- Telephoto - >70mm
- Tilt and shift
- Macro

Zoom lenses

- Range of focal lengths
 - Wide to standard;
 - Standard to telephoto;
 - Wide to telephoto
- Change in maximum aperture across range

Things to consider:

- Photographic subject(s) you want to shoot
 - Landscape
 - Portrait
 - Wildlife
 - Sport
 - Reportage
- Proximity to subject
- Light available
- Rendition of subject – reality vs. distortion
- Weight of camera & lens
- Willingness to carry extra lenses
- Ability to change lens – time & environment
- Budget

Further reading

Understanding camera lenses –

<http://www.cambridgeincolour.com/tutorials/camera-lenses.htm>