

Setting up the Canon DSLR Camera

1. Gather your equipment. You should have the Canon DSLR camera, batteries, a zoom lens, a 50mm lens, SD card and card reader, a shotgun-style microphone and a tripod.
2. Put a battery inside the DSLR camera. The battery door is located on the bottom of the camera - note the direction of the contacts on the battery when inserting -- they should be opposite the small gray tab.
3. Power the camera on. The power switch is located on the top of the camera, and has three settings: off, on and video mode. To use the camera for photography, set it to "On."
4. Open the articulating screen on the back of the camera. It will open to the left. It can tilt up and down, and can be closed against the camera with the screen facing in or out.
5. Select a lens. The kit includes two lenses -- an 18-55mm zoom lens and a 50mm lens. If using the zoom lens, ensure that the lens is set to "AF" and that the stabilization is set to "on" when not using a tripod. If using the 50mm lens, ensure that the lens is set to "AF".
6. Attach a lens. Remove the cap on the front of the camera by rotating it to the left. Remove the cap on the back of the lens by rotating it to the left. Note the location of the white square on the zoom lens or the red dot on the 50mm lens, and find the corresponding marks on the front of the camera. Align these marks, and gently rotate the lens to the right to secure it to the camera. You should feel and hear a gentle "click" once it is attached properly. *The lenses are fragile and have plastic mounting brackets. **Never use force when attaching or removing a lens.***
7. Set the camera to the mode you want using the dial on the top of the camera. If you are unfamiliar with manual settings when using a camera, set the mode dial to "P" or the green "A," which are automatic modes. This tutorial will not cover the many modes and settings available on the camera. YouTube is a great resource for learning advanced settings, and you can see what photography books are available to check out in the library.
8. You're ready to take photos -- you can use the viewfinder or use the LCD screen on the camera. Press the button with the camera logo to the right of the viewfinder to activate the live photo view on the screen.
9. Press the shutter button half-way down to focus -- and press the button down all the way to take a picture.
10. Use the play button on the back of the camera to review images you have taken.
11. To remove a lens when you are done using the camera, first ensure that the camera is powered off. With the camera facing you, find the small half-circle shaped button to the right of the lens. Hold this down and gently rotate the lens to the left to remove it. Replace the protective caps on both the lens and the camera.
12. Remove the SD card to transfer files to your computer. The SD card is located inside the hand grip on the right side of the camera. Please make sure to put the card back in the camera.
13. Please make sure the equipment is packed away in the same way as when you received it.

Setting up the camera for video

1. Follow steps 1-7 above. The zoom lens is recommended for shooting video because it has built-in stabilization. You may experience excessive “camera shake” if you shoot video using the 50mm lens and hold it by hand.
2. Turn the camera on by moving the power switch all the way to the video logo. You will see a live view on the camera’s LCD screen.
3. Press the button with the camera logo/red dot just to the right of the viewfinder to start and stop recording.
4. Press the shutter button halfway to focus, or touch on the LCD screen to set a specific point for the camera to focus on.
5. Use the play button on the back of the camera to review footage.
6. (Optional) Using the microphone. Attach the shotgun-style microphone to the camera to capture higher quality audio than what is possible with the built-in microphone. Turn the microphone on and ensure the green light is illuminated on the back of the microphone. Loosen the adjustment wheel on the bottom of the microphone and slide the square onto the metal insert on the top of the camera. Lightly but securely tighten the adjustment wheel. Locate the microphone port on the side of the camera and plug the microphone into the camera.
7. (Optional) Using the tripod. Extend the legs of the tripod. Remove the quick-release plate from the tripod by pulling outward on the lever just behind the green bubble level. Tighten the quick-release plate to the bottom of the camera -- make sure it’s snug but don’t over tighten it. Place the camera onto the tripod by clipping the quick-release plate back onto the tripod. Do not let go of the camera until you are certain it is fully and securely attached. There are multiple adjustments for leveling the tripod and adjusting the height. The long handle for aiming the camera is also the adjustment for tilting up and down. Just above the handle is the adjustment for flipping the camera to a vertical orientation. On the left side of the tripod head is the adjustment for panning left and right. On the stem of the tripod is the adjustment for moving the stem up and down.