Red-eye Reduction

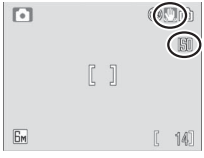
The camera uses *advanced red-eye reduction*. Low-intensity light pulses cause the subject's pupils to contract before the flash fires. If the camera still detects red-eye, it will process the image to further its effects ("In-Camera Red-eye Fix"; note that this may slightly increase the time needed to record the picture). This mode is not recommended where a quick shutter response is required; if the desired results are not achieved, try again at a different flash setting.

When Lighting Is Poor

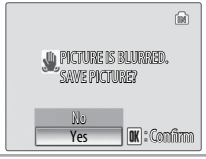
① The AF-assist illuminator may light

If lighting is poor, the AF-assist illuminator may light to assist the focus operation when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway. The illuminator has a maximum range of about 1.9 m/6 ft. 3 in. (W) to 1.1 m/3 ft. 7 in. (T). The AF-assist illuminator is not available in some modes (84) and can also be turned off manually (75), although in this case the camera may not focus when lighting is poor.

② A blur warning may be displayed



If the flash is off, a icon will be displayed to warn that pictures may be blurred as a result of slow shutter speeds. If an **ISO** icon is displayed, sensitivity has been raised to compensate for poor lighting and pictures may be affected by "noise" in the form of randomly-spaced, brightly-colored dots (65). The camera may process pictures to reduce noise, doubling recording times.

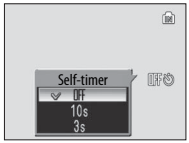


If the warning at right is displayed after a picture is taken, the picture may be blurred. Select **No** to exit without recording the picture. If no operations are performed for about twenty seconds, the picture will be recorded automatically.

Taking Pictures with the Self-Timer

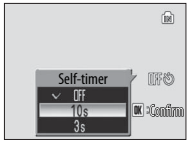
The camera is equipped with a ten- and three-second timers for self-portraits and to reduce blur. When using the self-timer, mount the camera on a tripod (recommended) or rest it on a flat, level surface.

1



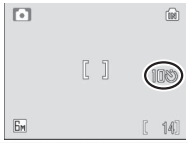
Display self-timer menu.

2



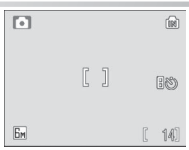
Highlight option.
3 s: Use to reduce blur.
10 s: Use for self-portraits.

3



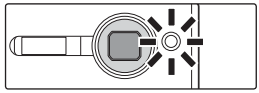
Make selection (to exit without setting timer, wait five seconds). icon appears in display.

4



Frame picture and start timer; display in monitor shows seconds remaining before shutter is released. To stop timer before picture is taken, press shutter-release button again.

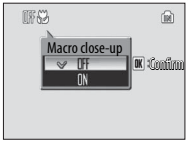
The self-timer lamp will blink until one second before the picture is taken, staying lit during the final second to warn that the shutter is about to be released.



Macro Close-up Mode

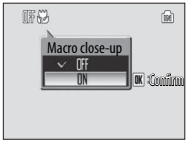
Macro close-up mode is used for taking shots of objects as close as 4 cm (1.6 in.).

1



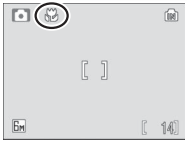
Display macro close-up menu.

2



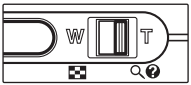
Highlight **ON**.

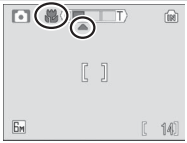
3



Make selection (to exit without changing mode, wait five seconds). Selection is shown by icon in display.

4





Frame picture. Minimum focus distance varies with zoom position; if zoom is adjusted to ▲ position and icon turns green, camera can focus at distance of 4 cm (1.6 in.). Camera focuses continuously until shutter-release button is pressed halfway to lock focus.

5 Focus and shoot. Note that flash may be unable to light entire subject at distances of less than 30 cm (1 ft.); if flash fires, play picture back and check results.

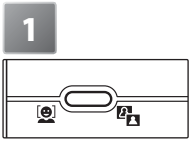
The macro close-up mode option last selected for (auto) mode is restored the next time mode is selected.

One-Touch Portrait Mode

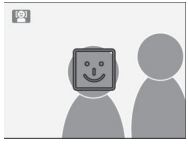
For portrait shots, press the button when the camera is in shooting mode. This will automatically activate the following features:

- **Portrait**: Background details are softened, allowing the portrait subject to stand out clearly.
- **Face-priority AF**: The camera automatically detects and focuses on faces.
- **Advanced red-eye reduction**: Reduces "red-eye" caused by the flash (21).

Macro close-up is not available in one touch portrait mode. To return to the previously selected shooting mode, press the button again.

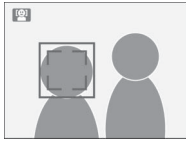


1 Press button. icon is displayed.



2 Frame picture using icon as guide.*

* When camera detects face, will change to double yellow border. If camera detects multiple faces, it will focus on closest subject; other subjects are indicated by single border. If camera can no no longer detect subject (for example, because subject has looked away from camera), borders will no longer be displayed; return to Step 2.



3 Set focus and exposure. Double border turns green.

4 Take picture.

Face-Priority AF

The camera's ability to detect faces depends on a variety of factors, including whether or not the subject is facing the camera. The camera may be unable to detect faces that are hidden by sunglasses or other obstructions or that take up too much or too little of the frame. If no face is detected when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway, the camera will focus on the center of the frame.

The camera will focus continuously until a face detected. If the double border flashes yellow when the shutter-release button is pressed halfway, the camera is unable to focus; release the button and try again.

The One-Touch Portrait Menu

Pressing the MENU button in one-touch portrait mode displays the one-touch portrait menu. With the exception of exposure compensation, the options chosen in this menu are restored the next time one-touch portrait mode is selected.

Option	Description
SET-UP	Display setup menu (70)
Image mode	Choose image size and quality (61).
Exp. +/–	Alter exposure from the value selected by the camera. Choose from values between –2.0 EV and +2.0 EV. Negative values produce darker pictures, positive values brighter pictures.
Portrait effect	Choose from **Normal**, **Brighter** (reduces vividness of skin tones), and **Softer** (soft effect).

Scene and Scene Assist Modes

The camera offers a choice of eleven "scene" and four "assist" options. Camera settings are automatically optimized for the selected subject type.

Scene mode: The following scenes are available.

Party/Indoor	Night Landscape	Copy
Beach/Snow	Close Up	Back Light
Sunset	Museum	Panorama Assist
Dusk/Dawn	Fireworks Show	

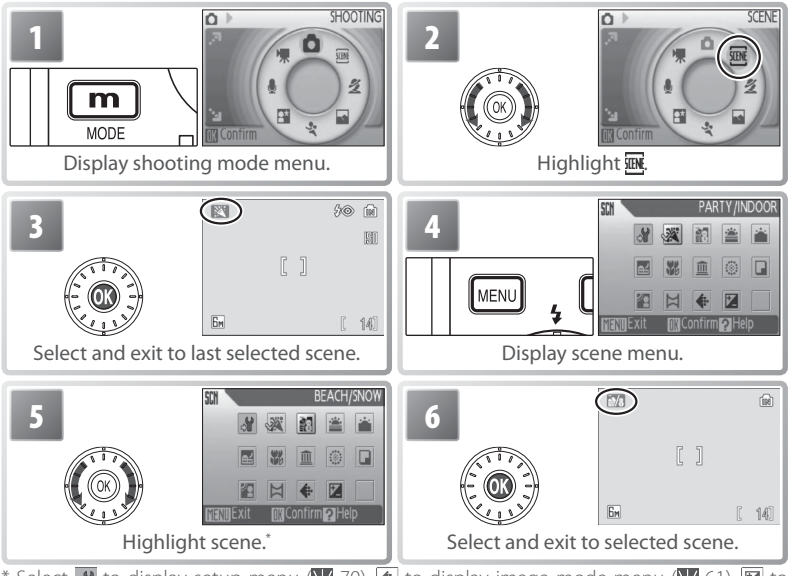
Scene assist modes: These scenes offer framing assist to help compose shots.

Mode	Description
Portrait	For portraits.
Landscape	For landscapes.

Mode	Description
Sports	For moving subjects.
Night Portrait	For portraits taken against a night backdrop.

Scene Mode

To take pictures in scene mode, select shooting mode and follow these steps:



* Select to display setup menu (70), to display image-mode menu (61), to adjust exposure compensation (31).

7

Take pictures.

The following scenes are available:

Party/Indoor

Use for shots that include details of the background, or to capture the effects of candlelight and other indoor background lighting.

Beach/Snow

Captures the brightness of such subjects as snowfields, beaches, or sunlit expanses of water.

Sunset

Preserves the deep hues seen in sunsets and sunrises.

Setting Icons

The icons to the right of the scene name indicate (in order from left to right) the default flash (20), self-timer (22), macro close-up (23), focus (see below), and AF-assist (21) settings for that scene. White squares (□) indicate settings that can be changed, solid squares (■) settings that are fixed at the values shown. Default values for the current scene are restored when the camera is turned off or another scene or shooting mode is selected. Focus is shown as follows:

- Camera focuses on subject in center of frame
- Camera focuses at infinity. Focus indicator is always displayed in green when shutter-release button is pressed halfway; note, however, that foreground objects may not always be in focus.

The following icons indicate the precautions that may be needed to avoid blur:

Hold camera steady Use tripod

A NR icon indicates that pictures may be processed to reduce noise, resulting in increased recording times.

Dusk/Dawn

Preserves the colors seen in the weak natural light before sunrise or after sunset.

Night Landscape

Slow shutter speeds are used to produce stunning night landscapes.

Close Up

Use to photograph flowers, insects, and other small objects at ranges as close as 4 cm (1.6 in.), with the background artistically blurred. Camera zooms to macro close-up position. Macro close-up icon turns green, indicating that camera can focus as close as 4 cm (1.6 in.) to lens. Camera focuses continuously until shutter-release button is pressed halfway to lock focus.

Museum

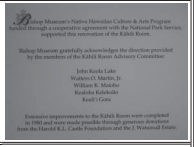
Use indoors where flash photography is prohibited (for example, in museums and art galleries) or in other settings in which you do not want to use the flash. BSS (65) turns on automatically.

Fireworks Show

Slow shutter speeds are used to capture the expanding burst of light from a firework.

Copy

Provides clear pictures of text or drawings on a white board or in printed matter such as a business card. Use macro close-up (23) to focus at short ranges. Colored text and drawings may not show up well.



Back Light

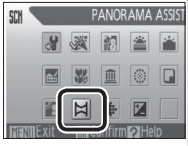
Use when light is coming from behind a portrait subject, throwing their features into shadow. The flash fires automatically to "fill in" (illuminate) shadows.

Panorama Assist

Use when taking a series of pictures that will later be joined together in PictureProject to form a panorama.

Taking Pictures for a Panorama

1

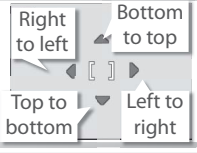


Highlight (**Panorama assist**) in scene menu (26).

2

Default pan direction displayed.

3

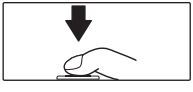


Select how pictures will be joined together in completed panorama. This is the direction in which camera will be panned after each shot.

4

Make selection (to return to step 3, press OK button again). Pan direction displayed in white.

5



Take first shot. About ⅓ of picture is superimposed on view through lens (if pan direction is left to right, picture will appear on side of monitor). AE-L icon is displayed to show that white balance and exposure settings for this picture apply to all shots in series.

6

Compose next shot to overlap with previous picture.

7

Take next shot. Repeat steps 6–7 until all shots in series have been taken.

8

End series. Shooting will also end if a new mode is selected or camera enters standby mode (14).

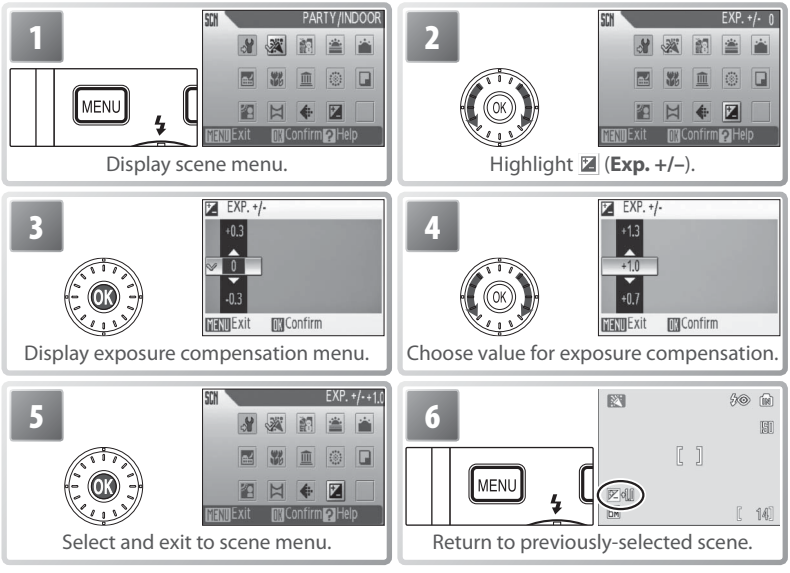
The camera focuses on the subject in the center of the frame. Use a tripod for better results.

Panorama Assist

Flash mode (20), macro close-up (23), and self-timer (22) can not be adjusted after the first picture is taken. Pictures can not be deleted or zoom or image mode (61) adjusted until shooting is complete. See page 89 for information on how panoramas are stored.

Using Exposure Compensation in Scene Mode

Exposure compensation is used to alter exposure from the value selected by the camera. Choose from values between –2.0 EV and +2.0 EV. Negative values produce darker pictures, positive values brighter pictures. To choose a value for exposure compensation, select a scene (27–29) and follow the steps below.

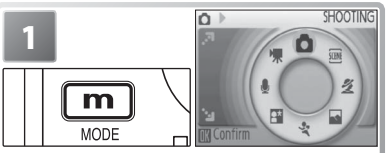


Exposure compensation for the current scene will be reset to 0 when the camera is turned off or another scene or shooting mode is selected.

Scene Assist Mode

Compose pictures with the help of framing guides displayed in the monitor.

1

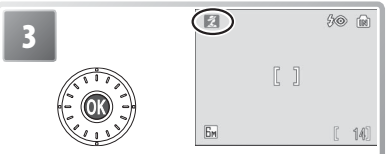


Display shooting mode menu.

2

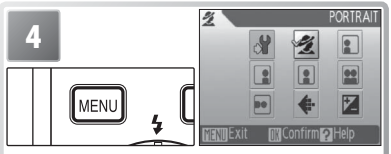
Highlight , , , or .

3



Select and exit to selected mode.

4

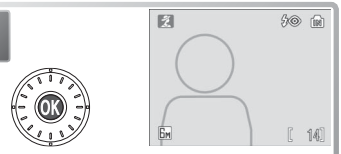


Display framing assist menu.

5

Highlight composition type.*

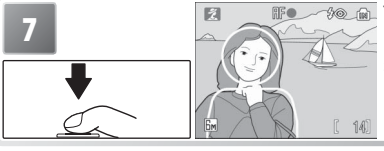
6



Select and return to shooting mode.

* : camera setup (70); : select image-mode (61); : adjust exposure (31)

7



Take pictures. If framing guides are displayed, position subject in guides before shooting.

Portrait Assist: Use for smooth, natural-looking portraits.

PORTRAIT	No guides are displayed. Camera sets focus and exposure for subject in center focus area.
Portrait Left	Compose shot with subject in left or right half of frame.†
Portrait Right	
Portrait Close-up	Compose shot with face in top half of frame.†
Portrait Couple	Compose shot with two subjects side-by-side.†
Portrait Figure	Compose shot in "tall" orientation.†

* AF-assist available in **PORTRAIT** mode.

† Camera sets focus and exposure for subject in framing guides.

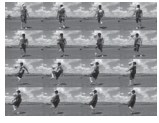
Landscape Assist: Use for vivid landscapes or portraits that feature a landmark in the background.

LANDSCAPE	No guides are displayed. Use to focus on distant objects through foreground objects such as windows or a screen of branches.†
Scenic View	Compose shot with sky in top third of frame. Match skyline with wavy yellow guide.†
Architecture	Photograph buildings. Framing grid helps keep verticals and horizontals aligned with the frame.†
Group Right	Compose shots with landmark to left or right of portrait subjects. Camera sets focus and exposure for portrait subjects.
Group Left	

* In **Group Right** and **Group Left** modes, flash mode is automatically set to **AUTO**; other modes can be selected.

† Camera focuses at infinity. Focus indicator (16) is always displayed in green when shutter-release button is pressed halfway; note, however, that foreground objects may not always be in focus.

Sports Assist: Capture motion in a series of high-speed shots. No framing guides are displayed. Focus, exposure, and white balance for all pictures are determined by the first shot in each series.

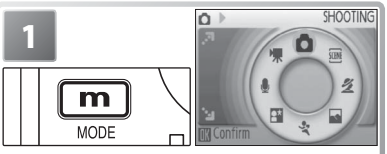
SPORTS	While shutter-release button is held down, camera shoots about 2.2 frames per second (fps) until ⌛ icon is displayed. Camera focuses continuously even when shutter-release button is not pressed.
Sport Spectator	As above, except that camera focuses at about 4.5 m/15 ft. (6 m/20 ft. at maximum zoom) to infinity for improved shutter response.
Sport Composite	Each time shutter-release button is pressed, camera takes 16 shots in about 2 seconds and arranges them in single picture (1,600 × 1,200 pixels) in size. Camera focuses continuously even when shutter-release button is not pressed. 

Night Portrait Assist: Use for a natural balance between the main subject and background lighting in portraits shot at night. This mode offers the same assist options as portrait assist mode. To prevent blurring, mount the camera on a tripod or rest it on a flat, stable surface.

Recording Movies

To shoot movies with sound recorded via the built-in microphone, select shooting mode and follow the steps below (no sound is recorded for time-lapse movies). Movies recorded to internal memory at the default setting of **Small Size 320** can be up to 1 minute 14 seconds long; a 256 MB memory card can hold up to 14 minutes 30 seconds.

1

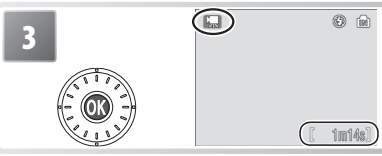


Display shooting mode menu.

2

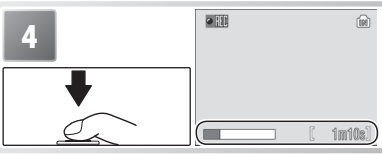
Highlight 🎥.

3



Select and exit to movie mode. Exposure count display shows maximum total length of movie that can be recorded.

4



Press shutter-release button all the way down to start recording. Progress bar shows amount of memory remaining. Press shutter-release button all the way down a second time to end recording.

Recording Movies

The flash (20) turns off in all modes except **Time-lapse movie**. The self-timer (22) can not be used. Optical zoom can not be adjusted during recording; digital zoom is available to a maximum of 2× (15).

More on Movies

See the Appendix for information on how movie files are stored (89), the maximum total length of movie that can be recorded at different settings (88), and movie menu defaults (87).

The Movie Menu

Pressing the MENU button in movie mode displays the movie menu. Options chosen in this menu are restored the next time movie mode is selected.

Option	Description
SET-UP	Display setup menu (70).
Movie Options	Choose type of movie that will be recorded (see below).
Auto-focus Mode	Choose how camera focuses in movie mode (37).
Electronic VR	Reduce effects of camera shake (37).

Movie Options

The following options are available:

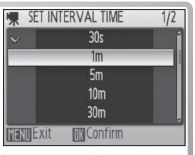
Option	Size (pixels)	Frames per second
TV movie 640*	640×480	30
Small Size 320*	320×240	30
Small Size 320	320×240	15
Pictmotion 320*	320×240	15
Smaller Size 160	160×120	15
Time-lapse movie*	640×480	30

* Maximum length is 60 s, making movie suitable for use with Pictmotion (48).

Time-Lapse Movie: Record flowers opening or butterflies emerging from cocoons. The camera takes up to 1800 stills at specified intervals and joins them into a silent movie up to sixty seconds long. Charge the battery before shooting begins.

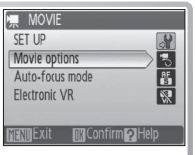
Selecting **Time-lapse movie*** displays the menu shown in Step 1, below.

1



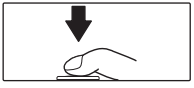
Choose interval between shots.

2



Select and exit to movie options menu. Press MENU button to exit menu.

3



Press shutter-release button all the way down to start recording. Camera will take pictures at specified interval until shutter-release button is pressed again, memory is full, or 1800 frames have been recorded. Monitor turns off and indicator lamp blinks green between shots.

Auto-focus Mode

Choose how the camera focuses in movie mode.

Option	Description
Single AF	Camera focuses when shutter-release button is pressed halfway and locks at this position during shooting, preventing sound of camera focusing from interfering with recording.
Continuous AF	Camera constantly adjusts focus, even when shutter-release button is not pressed.

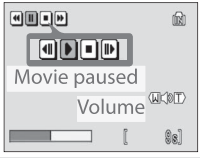
Electronic VR

Choose **On** to reduce the effects of camera shake in all movie modes except **Time-lapse movie**. An electronic VR indicator is displayed in the monitor when electronic VR is on (6–7).

Movie Playback

In full-frame playback (41), movies are indicated by a icon.

To play a movie, display it in full-frame playback and press the OK button. Playback controls appear at the top of the display; press the rotary multi selector left or right to highlight a control, then press the OK button to perform the selected operation.



Control	Description
	Movie rewinds while OK button is pressed.
	Movie advances while OK button is pressed.
	Pause playback. Rotate rotary multi selector for single-frame advance or rewind.
	Go ahead one frame. Advance continues while OK button is pressed.
	Go back one frame. Rewind continues while OK button is pressed.
	Resume playback.
	End movie and return to full-frame playback.

Volume is displayed when the zoom control is pressed. Select **W** to lower volume, **T** to increase. Rotate the rotary multi selector to fast forward or rewind while the movie is playing. To delete a movie, display it in full-frame playback or select it in the thumbnail list and press the button. A confirmation dialog will be displayed.

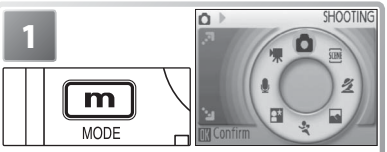
Voice Recordings

Audio voice recordings can be recorded over the built-in microphone and played back over the built-in speaker.

Making a Voice Recording

To make a voice recording, select shooting mode and follow these steps:

1



Display shooting mode menu.

2

Highlight 🎙.

3

Select and exit to voice recording mode. Display shows length of recording that can be made.

4

1	Recording indicator	5	Time remaining
2	File number	6	Index number†
3	Length of recording	7	Progress indicator
4	Date of recording		

Press shutter-release button all the way down to start recording.*

* Camera enters stand-by mode (14) and indicator lamp turns green. Press [📷▶] to reactivate display. To pause recording, press (OK) button; self-timer and indicator lamps will blink. Press again to resume.

† To create index, press rotary multi selector up, down, left, or right during recording. Camera can skip to any index during playback. Start of recording is index number 01; other numbers are assigned in ascending order, to maximum of 98.

5

Press shutter-release button all the way down a second time to end recording. Recording will end automatically after five hours or when no more memory is available.

The Voice Recording Menu

Pressing the MENU button in voice recording mode displays the following options. The option selected for **Sound quality** is restored the next time voice recording mode is selected.

Option	Description
SET-UP	Display setup menu (70).
Sound quality	Select **High** for high quality, **Normal** for reduced file size.

Voice Recordings

PictureProject can not be used to transfer or play voice recordings. Select **Interface** > **Mass storage** for **USB**, copy the files manually, and then play them back using QuickTime or any other WAV-compatible audio player. Note that index points created with the camera can not be used when voice recordings are played back on another device.

The COOLPIX S6 may be unable play or copy sound files created with other devices. See the Appendix for information on how voice recordings are stored (89) and on the maximum total length of voice recording that can be stored (88).