

LENS CHARACTERISTICS

"Normal lens": approximates spatial relationships as the human eye sees them.

Lens ¹	Field of view	Image size	Depth of field ²	Distance	Distortion	Motion
normal	40-50 degrees	normal	medium	normal	none	normal
long ³	up to 40 degrees	larger	shallow	compressed	barrel	slower ⁴
short ⁵	more than 50 degrees	smaller ⁶	great	expanded	widens	faster

¹ Comparative terms for long and short lenses are relative to the characteristics of normal lenses.

² Depth of field affected by:

1. Subject-to-camera distance (closer to camera, less depth of field)
2. Aperture (smaller aperture = more depth of field)
3. Focal length (wider lens = greater depth of field)

³ Long in terms of focal length relative to the focal length of a normal lens. Most people call this a telephoto lens. Zettl calls it a narrow-angle lens.

⁴ Especially in the z-axis.

⁵ Short in terms of focal length, again relative to the focal length of a normal lens. Most people call this a wide angle lens (as does Zettl).

⁶ However, objects close to the lens will appear disproportionately larger relative to objects at a distance from the lens.