

# 3 WAYS TO FLATTER YOUR PORTRAIT SUBJECTS

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As interesting as character portraits are, people don't want photos of themselves they think make them look bad. Whether you're shooting weddings or casual family pictures, know how to make your subjects look their best. Here are three techniques:

**1 Body position.** Ask your subject to turn partially toward the camera and put weight on the back foot—this will make a person look thinner. Advise subjects to move their shoulders back and their head and chest slightly forward, which will improve posture and help eliminate a double chin. Putting some space between the arms and the body will give a person more shape.

**2 Complementary colors.** Plan the colors of your shooting environment and your subject's outfit ahead of time. Ask your subject to wear clothes that are all the same color to elongate the body and make for a cleaner-looking photo. Select colors that work with a person's skin, hair, and eye color.

**3 Angled lighting.** Shooting portraits from a high angle can be very flattering, and placing the light above your subject will put a shadow under the jaw—a good idea for hiding a double chin. Or try setting your main light at a 45-degree angle to the subject, face turned slightly toward the light. This will make slenderize by illuminating only part of the face and leaving the rest in shadow. 