

Lens Recommendations: You really can't go wrong with any of these lenses. Price is not always an indication of a pro lens. These are all high quality lenses for full-frame cameras (but can be used on crop sensor cameras). When buying lenses, it is generally a good idea to buy lenses for full-frame cameras even if you only have a crop sensor camera. When you upgrade later to a full-frame camera body you won't have to re-purchase new lenses (crop lenses are not always compatible with full-frame camera bodies).

	Lower Price Lenses	Mid-range Price Lenses	Higher Price Lenses
50mm¹	Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II ^{^+} Nikon AF-S 50mm f/1.8G	Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM Nikon AF 50mm f/1.4D ^{~+}	Canon EF 50mm f/1.2L USM Nikon 50mm f/1.2 (manual focus only)
24-70mm^{*2}	Canon EF 24-70mm f/4L IS USM Sigma 24-105mm f/4 DG OS HSM Art ⁺	Sigma 24-70mm f/2.8 DG OS HSM ⁺ Tamron SP 24-70mm f/2.8 Di VC USD G2	Nikon AF-S 24-70mm f/2.8E ED VR [~] Canon EF 24-70mm f/2.8L II USM ⁺
Telephoto Zoom^{~3}	Canon EF 70-200mm f/4L USM ^{^+} Nikon AF-P 70-300mm f/4.5-5.6E ED VR [~] Tamron 70-300mm f/4-5.6 Di LD Macro	Nikon AF-S 70-200mm f/4G ED VR Sigma 70-200mm f/2.8 DG OS HSM Tokina AT-X 70-200mm f/4 PRO FX VCM-S	Nikon AF-S 70-200mm f/2.8E FL ED VR [~] Canon EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS USM
85mm[~]	Canon EF 85mm f/1.8 USM ⁺ Nikon AF-S 85mm f/1.8G	Sigma 85mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art Tamron SP 90mm f/2.8 Di Macro 1:1 VC USD	Nikon AF-S 85mm f/1.4G Canon EF 85mm f/1.2L II USM
35mm	Canon EF 35mm f/2 IS USM Nikon AF-S 35mm f/1.8G ED	Sigma 35mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art	Canon EF 35mm f/1.4L II USM
Mega Telephoto[~]	Tamron 18-400mm f/3.5-6.3 Di-II VC (this is the only <u>crop sensor</u> lens on this list)	Nikon AF-S 200-500mm f/5.6E ED VR ^{~+}	Sigma 500mm f/4 DG OS HSM
Wide Angle	Nikon AF 24mm f/2.8D (no AF on DX body) [~] Canon EF 24mm f/2.8 IS USM	Nikon AF-S 24mm f/1.8G ED	Nikon AF-S 24mm f/1.4G ED Sigma 28mm f/1.4 DG HSM Art
100mm Macro[~]	Tokina ATX-i 100mm f/2.8 FF Macro Sigma 105mm f/2.8 EX DG OS HSM Macro		Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L Macro IS USM ⁺ Nikon AF-S 105mm f/2.8G VR Micro IF-ED

^{1,2,3} Highly recommended lenses. I am sure many of you reading this have other lenses you would consider essential for your photography needs – a super wide angle or a longer zoom – and all of those are great lenses to own. However, for someone who is new to photography or who has just bought their first DSLR, these three lens types will give them the versatility to shoot in almost any situation; family events, landscapes, portraits, sports events, birds and insects, flowers, and more. Once you narrow in on a particular type of photography that most interests you, other lenses may be more useful for that specific subject, but until then these are the lenses all photographers should own. Adding lenses from there on is subjective, but our recommendation would be to get additional primes (35mm, 85mm), then a mega telephoto, a super wide angle, and then a 100mm Macro. As a photographer, you will find your lens collection is never quite complete, there is always one more lens you could buy!

*Many camera kits come with 18-55mm or 24-70mm lenses; when you are ready to buy a telephoto zoom, get one that covers the next range (55-250mm or 70-200/70-300mm)

[^]Best values

⁺Recommended by several other photography experts in independent tests and/or reviews

[~]Special Notes: Telephoto lenses are great for wildlife and sports photography; 85mm are great for portraits and some 100mm lenses can have multiple uses for macro, portrait, and/or sports photography. For Nikon, check compatibility carefully through [Nikon Support](https://www.nikon.com/support). Consumer level Nikon bodies may not be compatible or lose function with AF lenses.