

## *Articles*

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### **AI is yours**   ©2025 Joseph T Sinclair

AI isn't going to get you; isn't going to make you irrelevant; isn't going to kill you; isn't going to eliminate mankind. Indeed, it's at your disposal. For Windows, it's Copilot. For Apple, it's Apple Intelligence. Each is an AI generator readily available as part of your operating system. Use it. For anything.

For our use we ask, what can it do for photographers? Anything. Just ask it.

For we of the digital cognoscenti, keywords have been very useful for searches for over a quarter-century. No longer. Yes, keywords can be useful; but instead ask a question. AI generators don't do searches as we've been conditioned to understand. They answer questions, and questions are sentences (hint: you don't need to use the question mark). They answer any question.

Sounds great, but does it work? It works unsettlingly well.

Example (Copilot):

[input: how do I make a shadow lighter in lightroom]

To make shadows lighter in Lightroom, follow these steps:

Open Lightroom and select the image you want to edit.

Go to the Develop module.

Locate the Shadows slider in the Basic panel.

Move the Shadows slider to the right to lighten the shadows and reveal more details in the darker areas of your image.

Adjust the Blacks slider if needed to fine-tune the contrast and depth of your photo.

That's pretty handy. Here' another example (Copilot):

[input: what light is best for photographing trees]

The best light for photographing trees is soft, diffused light, which helps to highlight the details and textures of the trees without creating harsh shadows. Here are some ideal lighting conditions:

### Golden Hour

**Early Morning or Late Afternoon:** The light during these times is warm and soft, casting long shadows and adding a golden hue to the scene. This can enhance the natural beauty of trees and create a magical atmosphere.

### Overcast Days

**Cloudy Weather:** Soft, diffused light on overcast days reduces harsh shadows and provides even illumination, making it easier to capture the intricate details of tree bark, leaves, and branches.

### Backlighting

**Sun Behind the Trees:** Shooting with the sun behind the trees can create a beautiful backlight effect, highlighting the silhouettes and creating a dreamy, ethereal look.

## Side Lighting

**Sunlight from the Side:** Side lighting can emphasize the texture and depth of the trees, revealing the intricate patterns and details.

## Blue Hour

**Dawn or Dusk:** The soft, cool light during blue hour can add a serene and tranquil feel to your tree photographs, with a subtle blue tint.

Experimenting with different lighting conditions can help you find the best way to capture the unique beauty of trees. Do you have a specific type of tree or scene in mind for your photography?

Google search now is also an AI generator, albeit a specialized one. If keywords don't work well, try sentences. The point is that an AI generator can immediately provide you with very specific answers to very specific questions. Why waste your time with anything else?

What about accuracy? Accuracy is an issue with facts. For instance, who was Ansel Adam's mother? The AI generator could give you a wrong answer.

But the answer to “what light is best for shooting trees” is not a fact. It’s a subjective discussion. Thus, unless you’re asking photographic history questions, accuracy isn’t your major concern. What is important is that you get a solution to your question.

Why is this distinction important? Because any solution is likely to be experimental. That is, perhaps it works, or perhaps it doesn’t. That’s for you to decide. But even if the solution is inaccurate, it’s still likely to give you a good lead to the information you’re looking for or to a question that provides more accuracy. In addition, the solution may give you other information that you didn’t know you needed.

Example (Copilot):

[input: will a leica lens work on a sony a7cr]

Yes, you can use Leica lenses on a Sony A7CR with the help of an adapter. However, it's important to choose a high-quality adapter to ensure proper compatibility and image quality<sup>1</sup>. Brands like Novoflex, Fotodiox, and URTH are recommended for their reliability and precision.

Keep in mind that using Leica lenses on a Sony camera might require manual focusing, as autofocus may not be fully supported. Additionally, the color rendition and other characteristics might differ slightly between the two brands.

Would you like more information on specific adapters for Leica lenses?

The factual answer to the question is “yes.” The solution-answer (above) is more useful.

Another example (Copilot):

[input: what f-stop is best for photographing flowers]

Photographing flowers can be a rewarding experience, and choosing the right f-stop can greatly enhance the outcome. Here are some considerations for selecting the best f-stop for flower photography:

#### 1. Shallow Depth of Field (f/1.8 - f/4)

**Background Blur (Bokeh):** Using a wide aperture (low f-stop number) will create a shallow depth of field, isolating the flower from its background with a beautiful, creamy bokeh. This technique helps to emphasize the flower's details and colors.

**Artistic Effect:** A shallow depth of field can add a dreamy and artistic effect to your flower photos.

## 2. Moderate Depth of Field (f/5.6 - f/8)

**Balanced Focus:** A moderate aperture provides a balance between the flower and its surroundings. This setting is ideal if you want to capture the flower with some context while maintaining a sharp focus on the subject.

**Versatility:** This range is versatile for various lighting conditions and compositions.

## 3. Greater Depth of Field (f/11 - f/16)

**Detailed Shots:** Using a smaller aperture (higher f-stop number) will increase the depth of field, ensuring that more of the flower and its surroundings are in focus. This is useful for capturing intricate details and textures.

**Macro Photography:** For close-up shots, a smaller aperture can help maintain sharpness throughout the flower.

## Tips

**Lighting:** Ensure you have adequate lighting when using smaller apertures, as they allow less light to enter

the camera. You may need to adjust your ISO or shutter speed accordingly.

**Tripod:** Consider using a tripod for stability, especially when using smaller apertures or slower shutter speeds.

Experimenting with different f-stops can help you find the perfect setting to capture the beauty of flowers. Do you have a favorite flower you'd like to photograph?

And so it goes. AI makes your photographic activities easier. But what's the catch? The catch is that AI is only as useful as the databases upon which it relies. For instance, IBM's Dr. Watson provides an AI generator that diagnoses diseases. This particular generator has read every medical journal article ever published in any language. That's its database.

What's the photography database used by Copilot? According to Copilot, Copilot isn't directly associated with any specific photography database. That means that its database is the web. In other words, Copilot uses the Bing search system for its data (confirmed by Copilot) thus making it similar to Google.



Are there photography questions that Copilot (or Google or Apple Intelligence) can't answer. Of course. But they will tell you so. The reality is that they may be the best starting point. With a non-AI search engine, you can search for something and expect to get an article, tutorial, or YouTube video and then complete your search by digesting what you find. But with AI you get a direct and immediate answer. And you may get referrals to articles, tutorials, YouTube videos to boot.

It took me some mental discipline, time, and practice to switch from keywords to sentences. Then it took more mental discipline to switch from Google to Copilot for certain questions. And there may be more agile AI generators than Copilot or Apple Intelligence. That invites investigation. (DeepSeek maybe?) But the writing is on the wall:

Use AI

What about AI photo editing?

Well, it's been built into leading photo editing software for several years. It makes many editing techniques simple that used to be complex.

Is extreme photo editing gimmicky? Yes, it can be. But one person's gimmick is another person's beauty. Andreas Gursky's *Rhine II* photo sold for \$4.3 million at auction in 2011. Gursky shot the Rhine River and then digitally removed a factory and some dog walkers, a feat that took some time and effort in prior days. Nonetheless, today you can do the same with minimal effort using a photo editor such as Photoshop that has integrated AI.



**Rhine II**

(this © infringement may cost the PSPC \$25,000 – but it's worth it just to see a great photo)

Sometime local photographer José Santa Clara managed to outdo Gursky with his *San Juan River II* photo. Using Photoshop (up to date in 2025), He was able to remove everything except the water easily and quickly. Incredible!



**San Juan River II**

**©2025 José Santa Clara**

José is expecting about \$8 million at auction. He will give all PSPC members notice when it goes to auction so that you'll have a chance to bid.

Oh, AI  
what have you wrought  
with the software that I bought  
and then caught  
the river

Poem by José Santa Clara

Why all the effort (five minutes)? Using AI, José could have had AI write the poem (in one minute) and saved time. Although I must say, the Copilot AI version (below) is a little wordy:

[input: write a poem about AI photo editing software creating a beautiful photo]

Pixels Alight

In the glow of the screen, a silent dance, Where  
shadows and highlights find their chance. An AI's

touch, so delicate and fine, Weaving magic in the image  
line by line.

With algorithms sharp, and code that gleams, It  
breathes life into digital dreams. A click, a spark,  
adjustments flow, Bringing forth beauty that begins to  
glow.

Contrast balanced, hues aligned, Every flaw, with care,  
refined. Textures softened, edges sharp, The software  
plays its digital harp.

Colors bloom, like dawn's first light, Transforming  
darkness into sight. A scene emerges, vivid and clear, A  
masterpiece without a peer.

Through the lens of AI's might, A simple photo turns to  
pure delight. In every pixel, art is shown, Crafted by  
hands that are not its own.

For those who like their info in poetic form, you  
can't beat AI for quick answers. Let's try once  
more before this article bores you into a three-  
day coma (Copilot):

[input: how old is the pagosa springs  
photography club]

The Pagosa Springs Photography Club was founded in 2003. That makes it over 20 years old!

Are you interested in joining or just curious about the club?

## **Revenge of the English Majors**

Ah yes, to be a technocrat in the golden age of networks is to be on top of the world. Right?

Short lived! With the advent of AI, the English majors will now rule the technosphere. Those who can use language adroitly will be better able to make AI work productively. Your time is over geeks!