



THREE LITTLE WISHES
PHOTOGRAPHY

COLOUR TEMPERATURE AND WHITE BALANCE

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In the late 1800s a British physicist William Kelvin created his own calibration of temperature. At this time centigrade measurements were based on water's freezing point. Kelvin started his temperature at 'Absolute Zero' which is -273 degrees centigrade.

By heating a block of carbon Kevin observed that as the temperature increased, so did the colors. His color temperatures started at the red end of the spectrum and as his carbon block got hotter, more colors were observed. Eventually at 10,000 K all of white light's colors were present; from red to blue.

In relation to photography, one should be aware of these color temperatures. Indoor lighting can appear normal to our eyes, but a camera may give a strong color cast in the image. For example, a regular light bulb in a bedside lamp will have a Kelvin degree of approximately 2,500(k). This will give you a yellow/orange cast in your photo if your camera is set to a daylight white balance.

Solution: Set your white balance in your camera to 'Tungsten'.

When taking photos outside on a dull cloudy day, the color cast may appear blue in your images.

Solution: Set your white balance in your camera to 'Cloudy'.

What your camera does when you set a 'White balance' is add the missing colors to correct the color cast.

Lord William Kelvin

White Balance symbols
on your camera

Auto White Balance **AWB**

Tungsten Bulb 

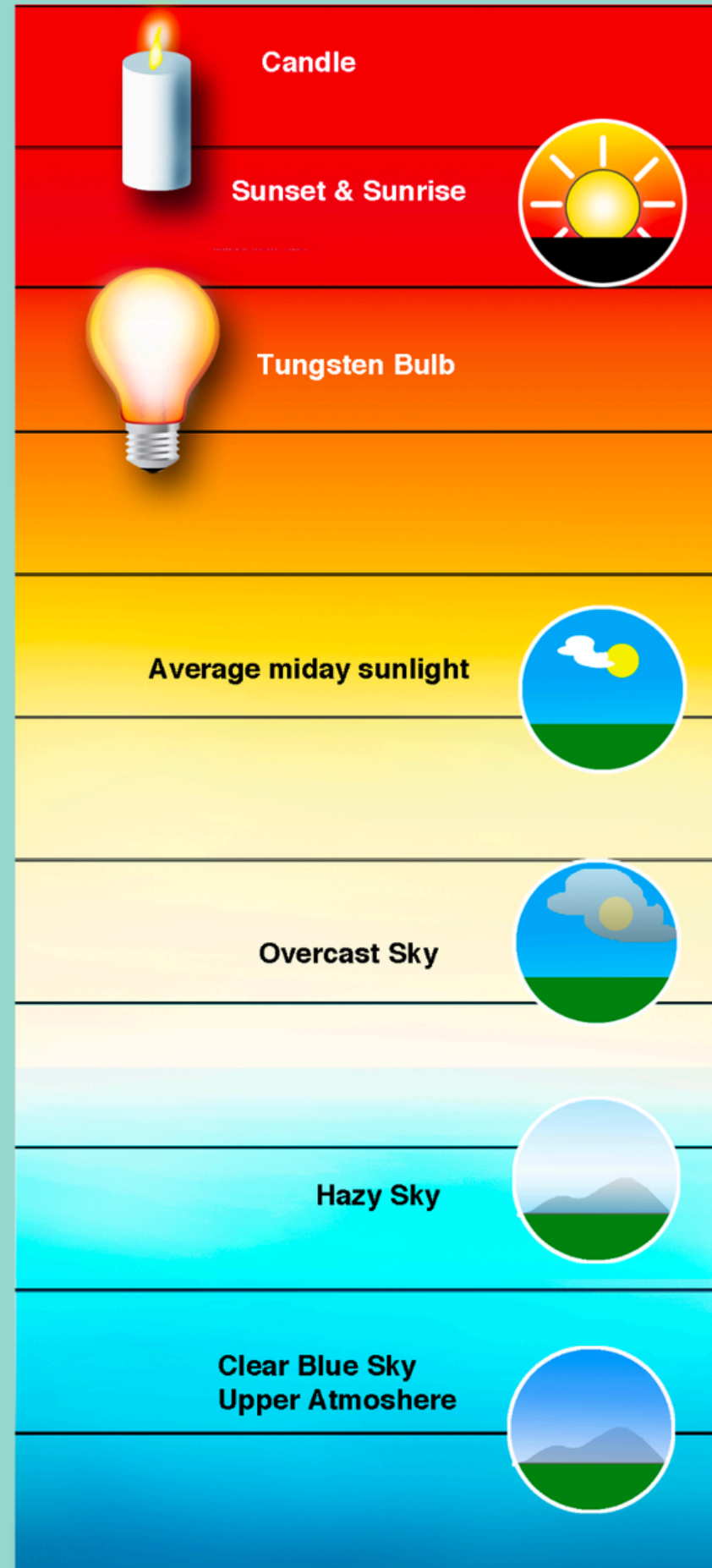
Fluorescent 

Daylight & Flash 

Cloudy 

Shade 

1000K
2000K
3000K
4000K
5000K
6000K
7000K
8000K
9000K
10,000K



AWB

Auto White Balance
range of your camera
is approximately
3000 -7000K