Exposure is the measuring and balancing of light

Too much light and the picture will be washed out. Not enough light and the picture will be too dark. A good photograph depends on calculating the exposure settings that will give the film the "right" amount of exposure.

The photographer can control how much natural light reaches film by adjusting the camera's shutter, aperture, or film speed.
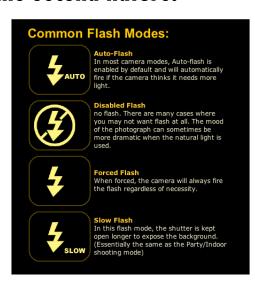
Measuring light (technical exposure)
A good technical exposure will produce a final image that accurately represents the original scene.. Film is light sensitive, and if the exposure is too dark or too bright, the result will not look like "real life".

Balancing light (artistic exposure)
Just to make things interesting, in any situation there are several camera setting that give exactly the brightness but with very different outcomes. Which to choose is up to you, the photographer.

Know your modes!
Like riding a bicycle, operating your camera should become second nature.

Common Camera Modes:

Icons	Description
Movie/Video	**Movie/Video** In movie mode, Digital cameras can capture live streaming video.
Macro/Close-Up	**Macro/Close-Up** this mode used for taking close-up pictures.
Party/Night	**Party/Night** longer exposures to capture darker scenes. Usually used with flash, and some nice motion effects can be created.
Portrait	**Portrait** To attempt to blur out the background, camera will try to use the fastest available lens setting (aperture).
Landscape	**Landscape** camera will attempt capture detail in foreground and background by using high f-stop (aperture) settings.
Sports	**Sports** To freeze motion, camera will use the highest shutter speed possible.
Stitch	**Stitch** For creating multi-shot panoramas, this mode will help to combine several shots into one wide scene. Good fun.
Av	**Aperture Priority** Photographer sets the aperture (f-stop) and the camera will attempt to deliver a good exposure. Some cameras use an "A" icon instead of "Av"
Tv	**Shutter Priority** Photographer sets the shutter, and the camera will attempt to deliver a good exposure. Some cameras use an "S" icon instead of "Tv"
M	**Manual** Full manual mode, the photographer must set both the shutter and the aperture. mode.

Common Flash Modes:

Auto-Flash
In most camera modes, Auto-flash is enabled by default and will automatically fire if the camera thinks it needs more light.

Disabled Flash
no flash. There are many cases where you may not want flash at all. The mood of the photograph can sometimes be more dramatic when the natural light is used.

Forced Flash
When forced, the camera will always fire the flash regardless of necessity.

Slow Flash
In this flash mode, the shutter is kept open longer to expose the background. (Essentially the same as the Party/Indoor shooting mode)

You should know AT LEAST ONE camera mode well enough to take a picture without hesitation.