

In praise of photography

I love photography!

I bought my first proper camera when I was 16 _____. I could have memories of my school prom, but before this I had always enjoyed using a disposable one and loved looking through the photos _____ they had been developed. The camera I saved up for when I was a teenager was a digital one, meaning _____ I could see the photos straight away _____ than having to wait a week for them to be ready - less exciting but really useful! I began to appreciate not only the finished result of the photo, _____ the process of taking it in the first place. My camera was not a really expensive one with a lot of settings, but I _____ enjoyed experimenting with different ways to get an interesting picture. Since then my enthusiasm has grown and grown and now I really see it _____ an art form!

I am definitely not alone _____ my passion for photography. I come from Winchester, an historical city in the South of England, and there are always a lot of tourists in the summer months. As I walk or cycle down the street, I often find _____ pausing to offer to take a picture of a family standing in front of the cathedral, or dodging to avoid being in the way of a photo. I feel proud to live in _____ a picturesque city, and I know that if I _____ a visitor there, I would be getting out my camera too!

But I think we have seen a change in the type of photography going _____ around us. The current trend in Britain seems to be for 'vintage' cameras - big bulky ones that would once have seemed old-fashioned, or ones that only take black and white photos, or old film cameras. Perhaps we're all getting tired of the millions of same photos uploaded _____ Facebook every day, and we're looking for something a bit different. Whether we take photos simply to capture the moment, to show our friends or as a form of artwork, most of us _____ agree that photography is a brilliant thing.

The funny thing is that, _____ my passion for photography, there are moments when a scene is so beautiful, or a moment so special, that all I _____ do is put aside my camera and enjoy life _____ the present.