



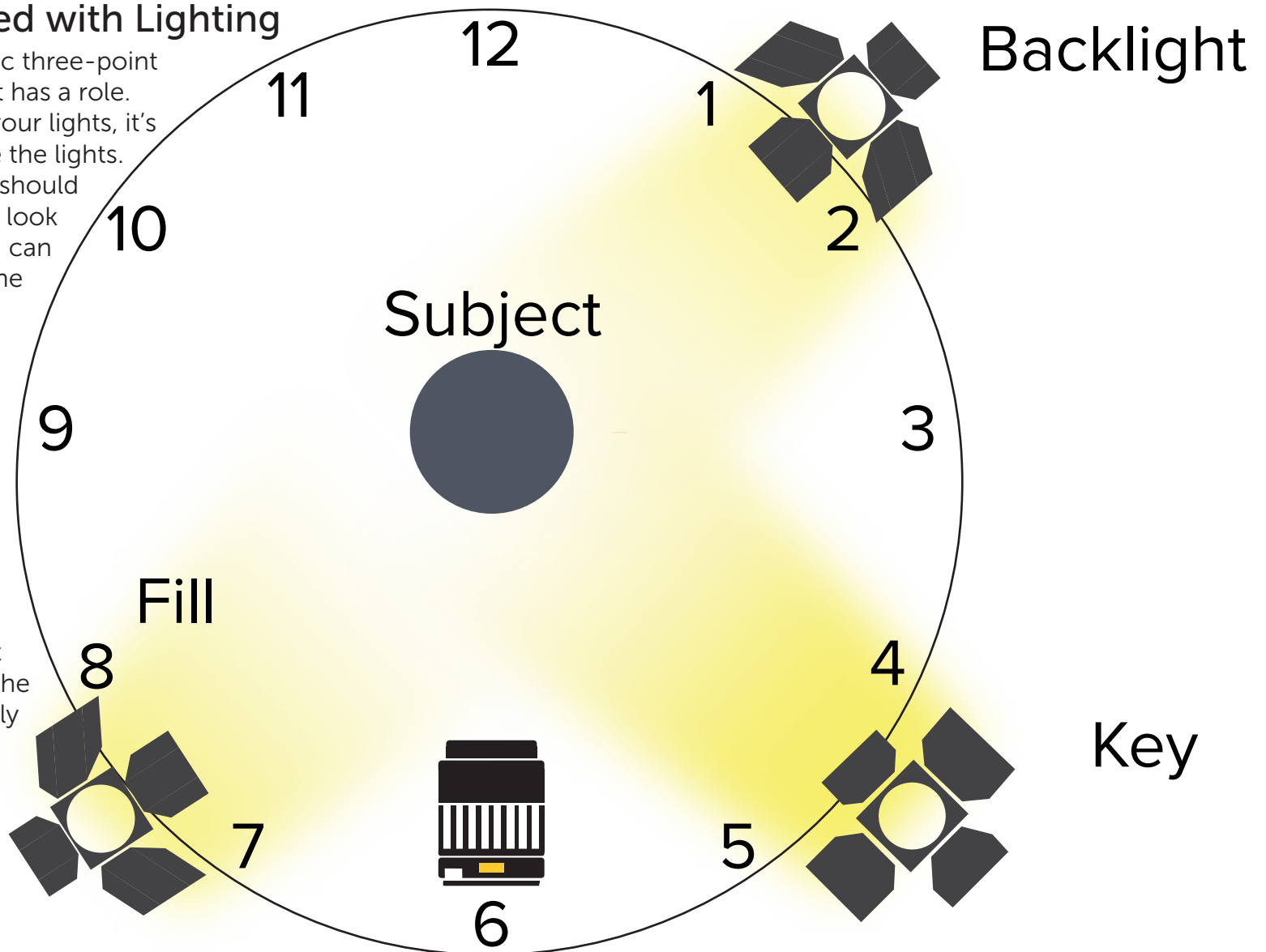
# Basic Three-Point Lighting

## Getting Started with Lighting

This diagram shows basic three-point lighting setup. Each light has a role. However, as you setup your lights, it's okay to move or change the lights. The goal of any lighting should be to make your subject look as good as possible. You can also use lighting to set the scene's mood and feeling.

### Reminders:

- Look through the lens to see how the camera sees the light.
- Lights can switch sides if needed.
- You can use other light sources to supplement the lights you have, especially daylight.





# The Key Light

## Key Light

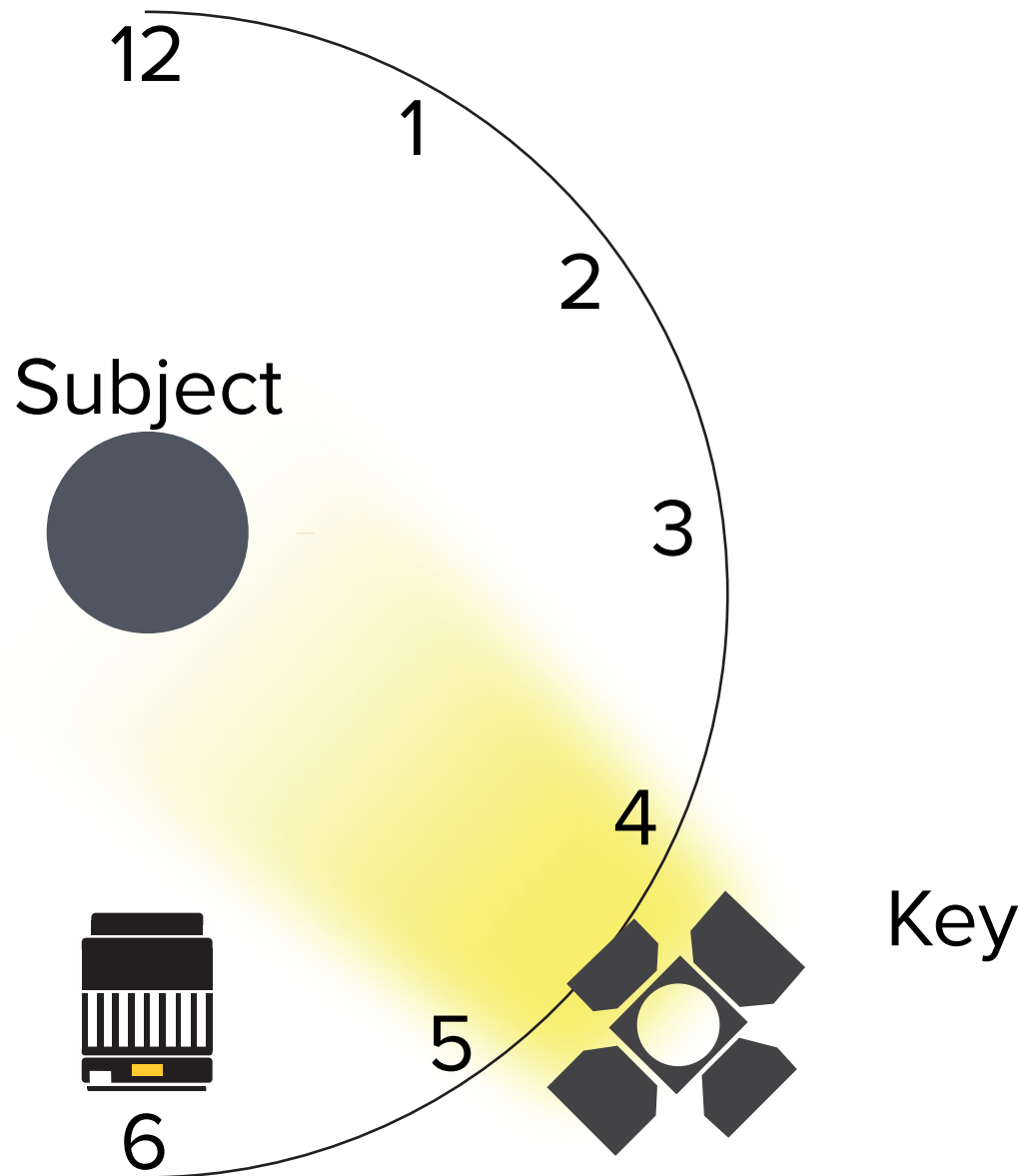
The key light is typically the primary light shining on your subject. This light can be either a soft light or a hard light\* and is typically the strongest of the three lights.

As you set up your key light be conscious of balance. Too much light could cause a heavy shadow to fall on the other side of your subject's face. Too little light, your subject's face may end up too dark overall.

As you set up your key light, consider the light's height. Depending on the look you want, the key should be just above your subject's head. Pointing down at about a 45-degree angle. If your subject is wearing glasses or the lighting isn't falling as you hoped, you may want to play with height, angle, and distance of the light from the subject.

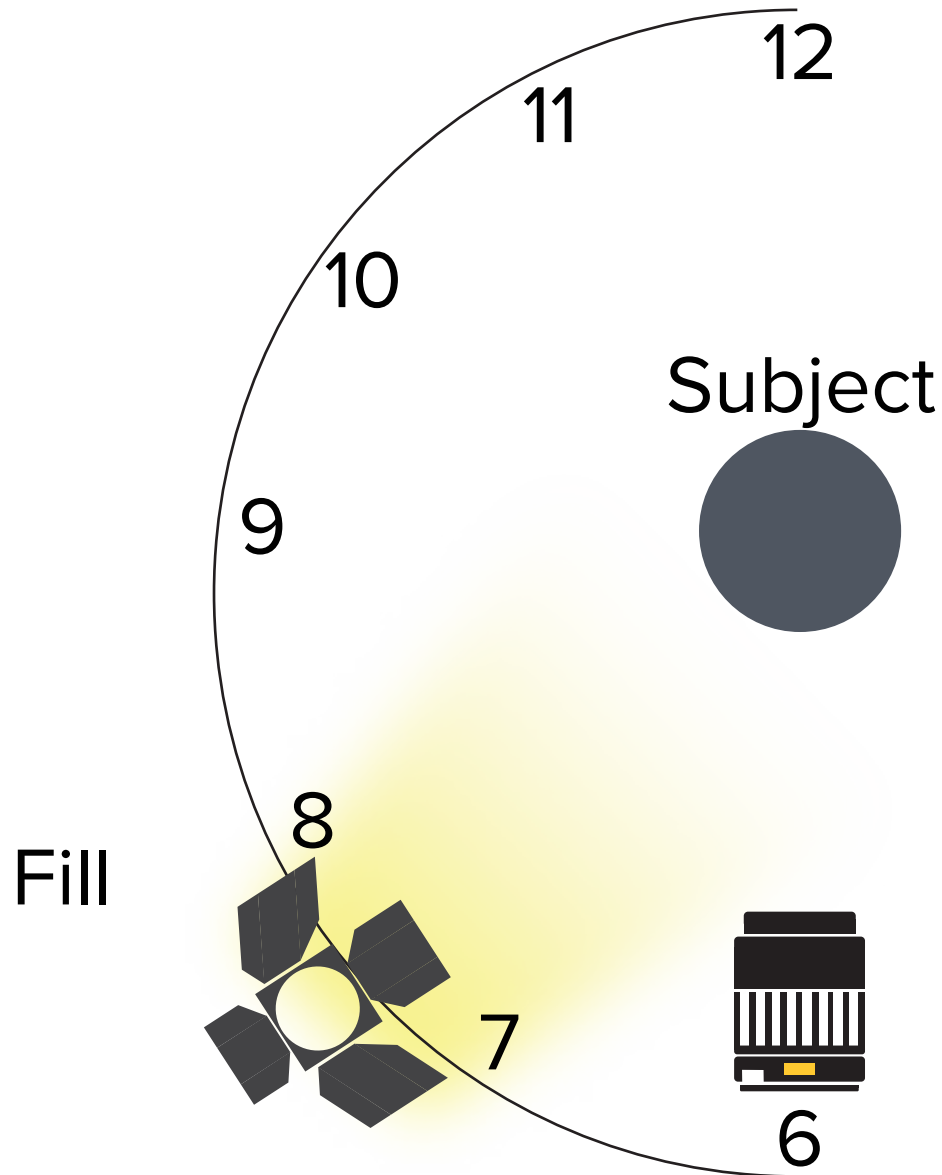
\*A soft light is when the light is diffused and cast few or no shadows.

A hard light is a light that creates hard, dark shadows.





# The Fill Light



## Fill Light

The fill light is a secondary light but is important for filling out the lighting on your subject's face. It fills in the shadows caused by the key light, without creating its own shadow.

The fill usually is a less powerful light or one that you've reduced the amount of light it is casting. By dimming it or putting diffusion in front of it. You can try changing the distance of the fill from the subject. You can also adjust other options include bouncing the light off a light colored low ceiling, or off a bounce board.

Just like the key, you may need to adjust height, angle, and location of your fill light for the optimal look.



# The Back Light

## Backlight

The backlight separates your subject from the background. This light can be a hard or diffused light, and is usually set up above your subject's head and pointed down at about 45 degrees. It should fall on their head, shoulders, and back. However, your back light shouldn't spill over on to the front of the subject or into the camera lens.

If your back light is spills over into your lens or onto your subject, you may need to flag the light, which can be done using barn doors or a solid piece of material that can help direct the light to cast where you want it.

Note: You can use more lights as needed. You may want or need a light that illuminates your background, especially when shooting green screen video. You may find for some shoots, especially if it is dark or you're trying to light a large space, that you will need many lights to get the look and feel right for your video.

