AUTOFOCUS MODE SELECTOR

Match focus behavior to movement.

Focus mode controls when focus updates. Focus area controls where the camera looks.

01	**Still**	For a stationary subject and camera, single autofocus acquires focus and holds it. Refocus if your distance changes.
02	**Moving**	Use continuous or servo autofocus for changing distance. Keep the chosen subject inside the active area and verify results.
03	**Area**	A small area helps with a precise stationary target. A tracking area can help follow movement but may select the wrong object.
04	**Detection**	When subject detection is available, confirm which subject or eye is selected. Detection does not guarantee the desired focus plane.
05	**Review**	Inspect the priority detail in several frames. Focus errors and motion blur need different corrections; faster AF cannot freeze movement.

Worked example

With a tram approaching, a locked distance can become outdated before the shutter fires. Continuous focus can follow the approach, while a smaller tracking area helps keep the camera off the building behind it.

Keep in mind

Names and available combinations vary by camera. AF-S/One-Shot and AF-C/Servo describe behaviors; consult your model manual for the exact controls.

Your decision

Subject movement

focus mode

focus area

selected target

sharp frames out of five

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 4.4, pp. 51-54. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications. Technical cross-check: Nikon D850 manual: autofocus modes.