MOTION BLUR DIAGNOSIS

Find the blur before changing settings.

A soft subject and a soft background point to different problems. Compare them at the same zoom.

01	**All soft**	If stationary edges also smear in one direction, camera movement is a likely cause. Try firmer support or a faster shutter.
02	**Subject**	A sharp building with a smeared passerby suggests subject motion. Shorten exposure if a frozen gesture is the goal.
03	**Elsewhere**	If another distance is crisp, focus may have landed there. Reposition the focus target and check the next frame.
04	**Depth**	If only part of the intended subject is sharp, depth of field may be insufficient. Adjust aperture or shooting distance.
05	**Retest**	Repeat the frame after one targeted correction. Comparing results is more useful than changing shutter, focus and aperture together.

Worked example

In a street scene, compare a moving pedestrian with a nearby stationary sign. A crisp sign directs your attention toward subject motion or focus, while matching streaks across both suggest camera movement.

Keep in mind

Several causes can coexist. Treat these patterns as diagnostic clues, then confirm them with a controlled reshoot.

Your decision

Sharp reference edge

blur direction

likely cause

one change

retest result

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 4.4, pp. 51-54. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.