OPEN SHADE BACKGROUND

In shade, check the background first.

Soft subject light can still sit against a distracting bright background. Balance the relationship before exposing.

01	**Shade**	Check for patches of direct sun on the important surface. Small bright spots can be harder to manage than a uniformly shaded subject.
02	**Backdrop**	Notice sunlit walls, sky gaps or pavement behind the subject. Their brightness may dominate a soft foreground.
03	**Angle**	Shift position to place a calmer surface behind the subject. Keep the useful setting visible.
04	**Color**	Nearby foliage or colored walls can tint shaded light. Judge the subject's color before planning a large global correction.
05	**Test**	Inspect subject detail and background brightness together. Change position again if the tonal gap is too large for the intended result.

Worked example

A shaded entrance may look calm until a patch of sunlit pavement behind it takes over. Moving a little to one side can replace that patch with a quieter background and reduce the editing burden.

Keep in mind

A deliberately bright backdrop can work. This is a hierarchy check, not a rule against contrast.

Your decision

Subject light

bright background

alternate angle

reflected cast

preferred relationship

Adapted from the PhotoMind source manuscript, section 3.3, pp. 31-34. Examples and worksheet are editorial applications.