

28 COMPETITION SINS

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Adrian Henson, M.Photog.MEI.Cr., CPP, has made a study of image competition. If you're looking to rack up PPA merits in the [International Photographic Competition](#), he says, avoid the following 28 sins, then find something in your image that really knocks you back in your seat. "Then you have the beginnings of what might be a great competition print," he says.

1. Sensor dust
2. Halos
3. Over-sharpening
4. Crooked horizon
5. Color banding
6. Out of focus
7. Bad composition
8. Bad posing
9. Poor skin tone
10. Clone tracking
11. Poor presentation
12. Over-retouching
13. Too processed
14. Artifacts
15. Depth of field too shallow
16. Boring subject/no impact
17. Too many subjects
18. No subject or center of interest
19. Bad print quality
20. Blocked up shadows
21. Blown highlights
22. Too easy
23. Repulsive subject matter
24. No color harmony/balance
25. Improper lighting
26. Wrong technique for subject matter
27. Poor choice of media type
28. Too much contrast