



Orbs, How Can You Tell The Real From The Ordinary?

Orbs are really just a ball of light. It's what causes the orb that makes it interesting. Orbs in digital photographs are not that uncommon so what you want to look out for are the natural things that can cause it. Also look at what is going on at the time the photo is taken. Do the orbs coincide with paranormal activity? So here are some things to think about. I just grabbed these examples of some orbs off the internet. I was not involved in the taking of these photos, so I can only give my opinion based on my personal experience.

1) If a photo is taken outdoors, weather can create orb effects. Moist air can cause the water particles that are unseen by the naked eye to catch the camera flash and appear in the picture as a ball of light.



This one is most likely moisture. You can see a fog is forming and there are some bright orbs

2) Dust can also create orbs. You wouldn't believe how much stuff is just floating around in the air. A lot of matter goes together to create what we call dust and if I were to list it we'd all probably get sick and want to stop breathing. To avoid false orbs, what I do, when I take photos during investigations, is to hold the camera low and then watch the space just in front of my flash when I take the pic. If I see sparkles in the flash then I know there's a lot of dust in the air and that any orbs that appear in my photos are most likely false.



Definitely dust. If you zoom in on some of the brighter orbs, you will see the spirals and corona.

Because dust and moisture are constantly moving in the air, the orbs they create in photographs tend to be very busy in the middle with a bright corona and sometime show a tail or even a happy face.



Here's a detail of some dust orbs. Again, there is a spiraling effect and a bright corona.



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Lens Flare. You can see how the orbs change size and intensity as they move down the photo.

3) Lens flare can create an orb like effect, although with lens flare you tend to get multiple orbs in a straight line from the horizon or vantage point toward the camera in diminishing size and brightness.

All the photos above are real orbs. Whether it's from a spirit or from dust, an orb is just a ball of light that is captured on in a picture or video. The really interesting ones are the ones you see with your eyes. I once saw a blue orb in an abandoned hotel. It was interesting because several of us saw it but it didn't show up in our photos or video.

When most people talk about orbs they're really talking about spirits and there is no way to tell if an orb in a photo was caused by spirit activity. I can look at 100 photos of orbs and not be able to tell you which ones are definitely caused by spirits. I can tell you which ones were probably **not** caused by spirits. The rest just need further investigation.

One thing most ghost hunters are trained to do is to take multiple successive shots: three in a row quickly. This allows us to eliminate dust as a possible cause. If the orb is in the exact location in all three pics it's probably not dust because dust would be moving. It could however be a spot on the lens and for that reason, we clean our lenses often.

One thing you can do to test your orbs is to see if you can control the movement. If you see that you have an orb in a photo and you suspect that it was caused by a spirit, ask the spirit to move in a specific direction, change size, change shape or to get brighter, then take a few more photos. You may want to use a tripod for this experiment so that the camera stays stationary to allow you to better judge the movement.

There are some people out there with plenty of time on their hands who have done extensive studies of orbs. These two websites are just an example.

<http://www.ghostscience.net/>

<http://www.ghost-tech.com/>