The Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens is Canon's **bargain Lens**.

The Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens is about as cheap as you can get a lens for - and this is a **good lens**. It is very sharp, tiny and light - possibly the lightest lens Canon makes. And with an f1.8 aperture, this Canon 50 is quite fast.

Sharpness performance wide open (f/1.8) is decent, but the Canon 50 f/1.8 is very sharp at f/2.8 and beyond. It is slightly sharper than even then Canon EF 24-70mm f/2.8 L USM Lens.

The Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens' biggest drawback in my opinion is the sometimes poor looking bokeh (foreground/background blur quality) compared to the Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM lens. The 50 f/1.5's 5-blade aperture is one of the corners cut to get to this price point - and is the cause of the sometimes-poor foreground/background blur quality.

I also prefer the color I get from the Canon 24-70 L and the Canon 50 f/1.4 over the Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens, but the 50 f/1.8 is not bad. Colors produced by the 50 f1.8 at wide apertures seem a little more washed out than the two Canon lenses I referred to above.

Read the Canon 50mm f/1.4 lens review for a list of the differences.

Focus speed is not stellar, but fine in good lighting with subjects that are not moving too quickly. The manual focus ring is very tiny - it is not easy to use. There is no focus distance scale window.

Light fall-off is noticeable through f/2.8 or so on a Full Frame body. When mounted on a 1.6x FOVCF body, light fall-off is noticeable wide open. On a full-frame body, Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens vignetting clears up about a stop later than the Canon EF 50mm f/1.4 USM Lens (the 50mm f/1.4 @ f/2 is similar to the 50mm f/1.8 @ f/2.8).

The Canon 50 f/1.8 is one of Canon's louder lenses - you know when it is focusing But this is not a wildlife lens - the noise probably won't bother most people. I suppose a positive aspect of this is you know when it is working - and when focus is locked.

Another drawback is the cheap build quality including a plastic lens mount. Considering how light the Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens is, I think the plastic lens mount is adequate for strength. You might get more wear than you wish if you are changing the lens frequently.

The Canon 50 f/1.8 really feels like a toy (and not a Tonka). See the size comparison picture below ...
Pictured above from left to right are the Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 Lens, Canon EF 24-85mm f/3.5-4.5 USM Lens, Canon EF 28-135mm f/3.5-5.6 IS USM Lens and Canon EF 24-70mm f/2.8 L USM Lens.

These few drawbacks are easily overlooked when one looks at the price. This lens is not for everyone, but I’m not sure a better lens is available for anywhere near this price.

The Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens is a good low-light indoor photography lens - especially when a flash is not appropriate or desired. It works very well in a church or gym for example.

The Canon EF 50mm f/1.8 II Lens, aside from having mediocre bokeh, also makes a good focal length for full-body portraits. If mounted on a 1.6x FOVCF camera, you will need some extra space to accomplish a full-body portrait.