

Learning Objectives

- To be able to identify the different types of *camera shots* and *camera angles* used in film.
- To be able to comment on the purpose of different camera shots and angles.

Section A: Length of Shot

- This means how close the camera appears to be to the thing or person being filmed.
- Changing the length of shot allows the film-maker to create different focus points and reveal more or less detail.

Close Up (CU) Shots



- A close up shot of a character usually takes in their **head and shoulders**.
- It can be used to emphasise how important a character or object is, or to emphasise their emotions.



- It allows the audience to build a relationship with the character. It can intensify the action. There are no distractions from focus on this character.

Close Up (CU) Shots – You be the Director!

Using your camera, frame someone or something in close up (CU).

Try and act out different emotions e.g happy, sad, frightened...

REMEMBER: the shot contains face and sometimes shoulders.

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Extreme Close Up (ECU) Shot



- An extreme close up shot usually focuses on a **part of the face** (often the eyes or mouth)
- Used to convey emotion to the audience.
- Often used at **key points** in the story. ECU intensifies the focus exclusively on the character.

Extreme Close Up (ECU) Shot

You be the Director!

Using your camera, try and frame someone or something in extreme close up (ECU).

Try and act out different emotions e.g. happy, sad, frightened...

REMEMBER: ECU usually focuses on a specific part of the face (eyes or mouth).

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Medium shot (MS)



- Medium shots are **from the waist up** and have a wider focus and may feature one or more characters or objects.
- Medium shots **reveal more of the character's context** – where they are, the situation they are in.
- Used at moments when the location is important to the **spectator's** (person watching the film) understanding of the narrative.

Medium shot (MS)

You be the Director!

Try to frame some medium shots with inside and outside locations.

Try and act out a different scenario e.g reading a speech or riding a bike.

REMEMBER! MS are of a character from the waist up & display some location.

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Long Shot (LS)



- Full body is shown.
- Used to show location or relationships of characters.
- Often used as a first shot at the start of a particular sequence.

Long Shot (LS)

You be the director!

Use your camera to frame someone in a long shot.

Try and act out a different scenario e.g walking away from somewhere.

REMEMBER! LS are of a character's whole body & tells the audience where they are.

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Establishing shot



- Usually an **Extreme Long Shot (ELS)**.
- Also called a wide shot.
- Used to establish context of the narrative – this could be where, when (time of year, period in history).
- A character may appear in an ELS but they will be indistinct. The context (where, when, weather etc) is the most important thing that the spectator needs to understand.

Section B: Angle of shot

- This means how the camera is positioned in terms of height and the way it is angled (looking up or down, for instance).
- Shot angles are powerful ways of creating impressions of characters and placing the spectator in different positions.

High Angle Shot (HA)



- The camera is **positioned above** the person or place, looking down.
- It can make a person look vulnerable.
- If used with the hero, the spectator may side with that character.
- If used with a villain, the spectator may enjoy his/her vulnerability.

High Angle Shot (HA)

You be the Director!

Use your camera to try to frame someone or something in high angle shots.

BE CAREFUL! Don't climb on things !

REMEMBER! High Angle shots make a character seem vulnerable.

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Low-Angle Shot (LA)



- The camera is positioned below the person or place.
- It can make a person look powerful or important (hero) or intimidating (villain).
- Remember, 'low' and 'high' refer to **where the camera is**, not the subject of the shot.



Low-Angle Shot (LA)

You be the Director!

Frame some low angle shots.

REMEMBER! Low angle shots can make a character seem powerful or intimidating depending on whether or not they are a hero or a villain.

Add your shots to your Film Notebook with labels.

Point of View (PoV)



- The camera becomes the character and shows us exactly what they are seeing, as they would see it.
- PoV shots place the spectator in the film, in the place of the character.
- It can encourage empathy.

Eye Level Shot (ELS)

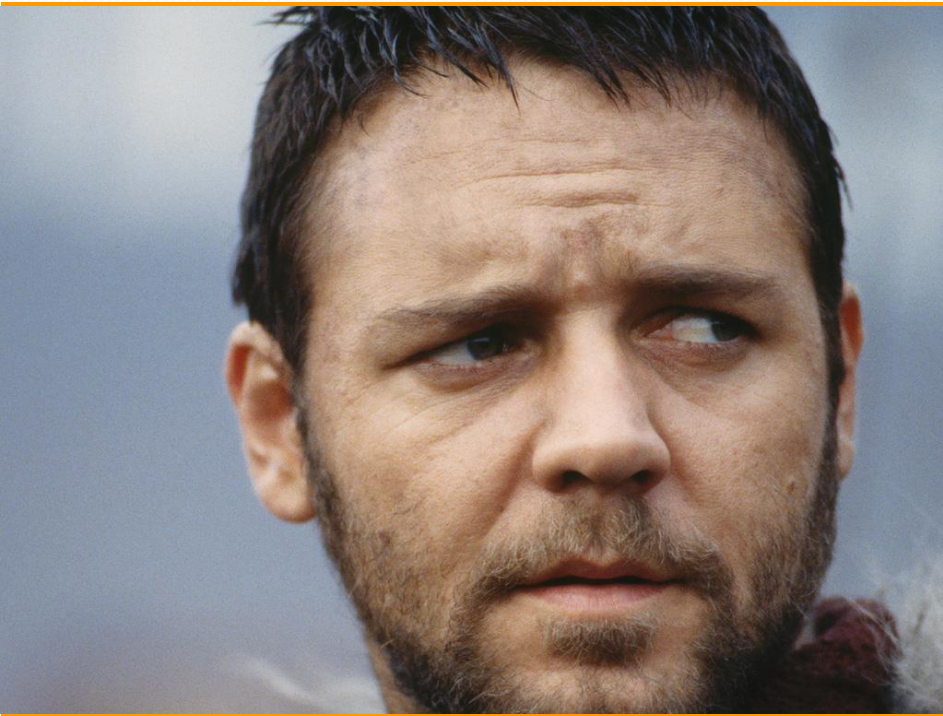


- A relatively neutral camera angle.
- Places the spectator as real person standing up, watching the scene as a bystander to the action.
- Often used in sequences when the narrative needs to unfold.

Quiz Time !



- What type of **camera length** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the characters and their surroundings from this shot?
- How do we feel about them?



- What type of **camera length** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the character from this shot?



- What type of **camera length** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the character/background from this shot?



- What type of **camera length** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the character from this shot?



- What type of **camera angle** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the character/surroundings from this shot?



- What type of **camera length** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the location from this shot?



- What type of **camera angle** is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the location from this shot?



- What type of camera length is this?
- What is used for?
- What can we tell about the location from this shot?

Now put length and angle together.



- What is the shot length and angle for this shot ?
- What are the connotations ?
- Can you express the shot type using the abbreviations ?

Extension: search for on-line images from one of your favourite films and analyse the shot lengths and angles. Copy them into your notebook.

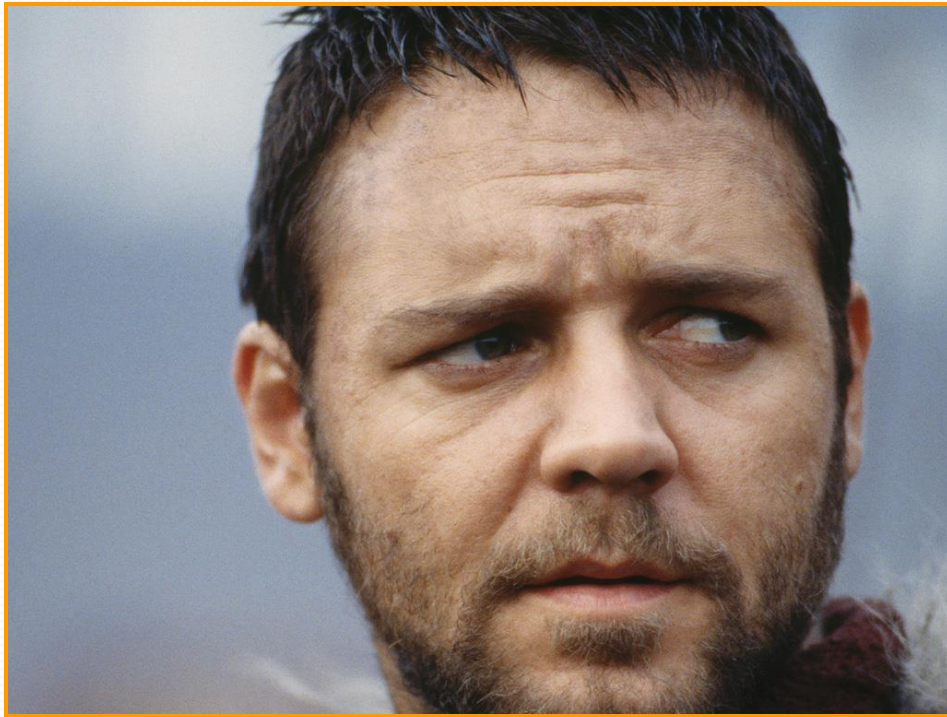
Quiz Answers !



- What type of camera length is this?
Long Shot

- What is used for?
Places characters in location and shows relationships of characters.

- What can we tell about the characters and their surroundings from this shot?
They are friends/one helping the other/in trouble/hurt in a cold place/dangerous.



- What type of camera length is this?

Close Up

- What is used for?

To emphasise how important this character is. To focus exclusively on him and the actor's performance.

Provides insight into the character's feelings.

- What can we tell about the character from this shot?

He is angry/upset/worried about something off frame.



- What type of camera length is this?
• Medium Shot

Audience can still see character's face, costume in detail and body language with some context.

- What can we tell about the character/background from this shot?
Seems to be in a big hall, meeting, school etc... Seems very confident.
Wealthy / stylish.



- What type of camera length is this?

Close Up

- What is used for?

To emphasise how important this character is. To focus exclusively on him, his appearance and expression.

- What can we tell about the character from this shot?

He is smiling – mischevious/funny. Is he planning something ?



- What type of camera angle is this?
Low Angle
- What is used for?
•To make a character look powerful.
- What can we tell about the character/surroundings from this shot?
•Factory/industrial setting; he is an important character to the action.



- What type of camera shot is this?
Long Shot

- What is used for?
To establish context.

- What can we tell about the location from this shot?
Different time, Ancient Greece, lots of people; celebration.



- What type of camera angle is this?

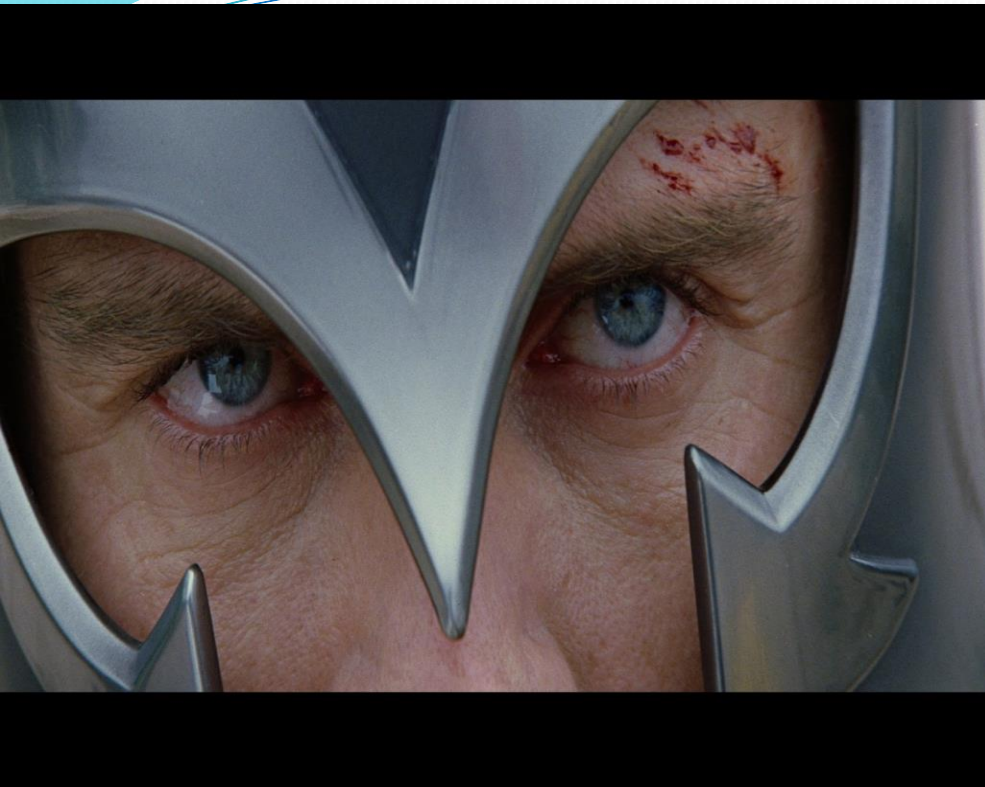
High Angle

- What is used for?

To make a character or object appear vulnerable.

- What can we tell about the location from this shot?

Perhaps something bad will happen here.



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- What type of camera length is this?
Extreme Close Up

- What is used for?
To show the emotion of a character, particularly at key action points.

- What can we tell about the character from this shot?
Anger/concentration/in battle

Now put length and angle together.



- What is the shot length and angle for this shot ?
Low angle Mid Shot.
- What are the connotations ?
The character looks powerful and sinister.
Modern urban setting.
- Can you express the shot type using the abbreviations ?
LA MS

Did you get them all correct?

