






The Language of film analysis

CAMERA RANGE		
<i>(=the distance between the camera and object)</i>		
extreme long shot	shot of, e.g. a large crowd scene or a view of scenery as far as the horizon <i>"What is the effect of the ~?"</i>	
long shot	a view of a situation or setting from a distance <i>"the camera pulls away from the close-ups to a long shot of the Boston skyline."</i>	
medium long shot	shows a group of people in interaction with each other, e.g. a fight scene, with part of their surroundings in the picture	
full shot	a view of a figure's entire body in order to show action and/or a constellation of characters	
medium shot, mid shot, medium close shot	shows a subject down to his or her waist, e.g. showing head and shoulders of two people in conversation <i>"What is the purpose of the high angle medium close shot?"</i>	
close-up	a full-screen shot of a subject's face, showing the finest nuances of expression <i>"The camera suddenly cuts to a close-up."</i> <i>"What does the series of close-ups show?"</i>	
extreme close-up (shot) detail (shot)	a shot of a hand, eye, mouth or object in detail	
POINT OF VIEW (VIEWPOINTS)		
<i>(= the position from which the camera is filming)</i>		
establishing shot	often used at the beginning of a scene to indicate the location or setting, it is usually a long shot taken from a neutral position <i>"The scene starts with an ~."</i>	
point-of-view shot, POV-shot	shows a scene from the perspective of a character	

over-the-shoulder shot	often used in dialogue scenes, a frontal view of a dialogue partner from the perspective of someone standing behind and slightly to the side of the other partner, so that parts of both can be seen	
reaction shot	short shot of a character's response to an action <i>"He decided to hold a ~."</i>	
insert (shot)	a detail shot which quickly gives visual information necessary to understand the meaning of a scene, for example a <i>newspaper</i> page, or a physical detail	
reverse-angle shot	a shot from the opposite perspective, e.g. after an over-the-shoulder shot	
hand-held camera	<i>"What effect does the ~ have in the party scene?"</i>	
CAMERA ANGLES		
<i>(= Kameraperspektive)</i>		
aerial shot or high angle or overhead	long or extreme long shot of the ground from the air <i>"How does the sequence of aerial and tracking shots support the voiceover commentary?"</i>	
high-angle shot	shows people or objects from above, i.e. higher than eye level	
low-angle shot or below shot	shows people or objects from below, i.e. lower than eye level	
eye-level shot or straight-on angle	views a subject from the level of a person's eyes <i>"In the first part the straight-on angle of the camera puts the viewer on the same level as Mrs Robinson."</i>	
	<i>"How do the various camera shot angles highlight the power of Mrs Robinson?"</i>	
CAMERA MOVEMENT		
<i>(movement of the camera during a shot)</i>		
pan(ning shot)	the camera pans (moves horizontally) from left to right or vice versa across the picture <i>"The camera pans across the picture."</i>	
tilt (shot)	the camera tilts up (moves upwards) or tilts down (moves downwards) around a vertical line	
tracking shot / trucking shot	the camera follows along next to or behind a moving object or person	
zoom	the stationary camera appears to approach a subject by 'zooming in' ; or to move farther away by 'zooming out' <i>"The camera zooms in(zooms out) on Ben's face."</i>	
EDITING / MONTAGE		
<i>(= the arrangement of shots in a structured sequence)</i>		
master shot	main shot of a whole scene taken by one camera in one position, which is then intercut with other shots to add interest	
cutaway	shot of something not shown by the master shot of a scene, but connected to the main action in some way	
cross-cutting or parallel action	intermingling the shots of two or more scenes which are taking place at the same time	

flashback	a scene or sequence dealing with the past which is inserted into a film's 'present time'
flash-forward	a scene or sequence which looks into the future
match cut	two scenes connected by visual or aural parallelism, e.g. one door closing and then another one opening
split screen	division of the screen to show two or more pictures at the same time
PUNCTUATION <i>(= the way in which shots are linked)</i>	
casting	choosing actors to impersonate the characters
cut	a switch from one image or shot to another <i>"What effect does the sudden cut from the pool to Ben's room have on the viewer?"</i>
jump-cut	(a) switching back and forth between two or more persons who are closely involved with each other, e.g. in a conversation or a chase scene; (b) using cuts to create an effect of moving rapidly towards a subject
fade-in	from a black screen or ground, the gradual emergence of an image, which slowly becomes brighter until it reaches full strength
fade-out	the gradual disappearance of an image until the screen or ground is completely black; a device used to end a scene
dissolve, dissolving shot or cross-fade	following a fade-out with a fade-in in order to move slowly from one scene to the next
Miscellaneous	
backlighting	filming a person or event against a background of light, especially the sun, which produces an idealized, sometimes romantic effect
background music	the music accompanying scenes <i>"What ~ would you use?"</i> <i>"What effect does the ~ have?"</i>
camera operator	the person behind the camera(s); in major productions, the head of the camera team is usually called the director of photography
caption	words that are shown on a cinema or television screen, e.g. to establish the scene of a story
clip	short piece of film or video.
composition	the arrangement of people or things in a painting, photograph, film scene, etc.
(film) director	the person responsible for the artistic production of a film, i.e. the lighting, camera work, action, and the actors' interpretation of their roles <i>"What do you think the director's intention is?"</i> <i>"Why does the director use this shot?"</i>
credits	list of people who helped to make a film or programme.
editor	the person responsible for arranging the camera shots and splicing (cutting / pasting) the shots together
film transcript	transcript of the final film according to the individual shots giving field size, camera angle, camera movement, action, dialogue etc.
footage	Piece of film or video. <i>"Where is the ~ being filmed from?"</i> <i>"What sort of TV programme uses footage like this?"</i>

freeze-frame	effect when all movement is stopped.
motion picture	a US and Canadian term for film
producer	the person responsible for the overall organization, especially the financing and marketing, of a film or TV production
scene	a shot or a series of shots that deal(s) with a single action
screenplay	film script with dialogue, location descriptions and some camera angles and movements.
sequence	Connected piece of film, perhaps a complete scene. <i>"What does the ~ of close-up and extreme close-up shots focus on?"</i>
setting	the location of a film <i>"If you were the director of the film, what kind of setting would you choose?"</i>
shot	Single piece of camera work, e.g. a cutaway. <i>"What sort of shot has to be used for an event like this?"</i> <i>"Watch the film as far as the first shot of Ben in his room."</i> <i>"The director uses ...shots to ..."</i>
soundtrack	All sound for a film, including voices and music.
still	Single frame of a film, like a photo. <i>"What could the connection between the title and the stills?"</i>
storyboard	series of simple pictures showing the sequence of main shots, often with notes on camera angles and movements.
subtitle	Printed words, usually below the picture, and usually used to translate dialogue in a foreign film.
time-lapse photography	Technique of filming very short bursts from a fixed position at fixed time intervals, so that action appears very rapid when the film is played back at normal speed.
(voice)off	not to be seen but to be heard (especially a narrator, a character voicing thoughts or a news correspondent commenting on pictures that are being shown)
voice-over	commentary heard by the viewer without the speaker being in-shot. Often used in documentaries. <i>"The voice-over comments break the scene into four sections."</i>

Information adapted from

<http://www.schuleplus.de/Englisch/films/filmanalysis-language.htm>