

Shot Types



Establishing shot

Establishing shots are used to give the audience an understanding of where the scene is taking place, or where it's about to take place – so they're establishing where we are. They are usually a long shot, as you see the setting from a distance, but the point is not to focus on characters within a setting, rather establish the setting for the next scene. That's not to say you can't have characters in an establishing shot, but more often than not they don't.



Wide shot or long shot (WS or LS)

If you want to see a character from a distance, a long shot is perfect. In a long shot you'll see a character's whole body from head to toe. In some instances the character might not be that far away from the camera, in others the character might appear extremely small in the landscape or space they're in.



Mid shot or medium shot (MS)

Somewhere between a close up and a long shot, a mid-shot shows us some but not all of a character or object. With people, a mid-shot generally shows a character from the roughly the waist up, but it doesn't have to be exact. Mid shots are great for showing us a character's body language and character's performing actions.



Two-shot

In terms of framing, two shots are framed like mid-shots, but it can vary. A two shot is basically when you see two characters in the frame. They're often a mid-shot because the two characters in shot are often talking or interacting in some way, or maybe we want to see the emotion of both characters face.



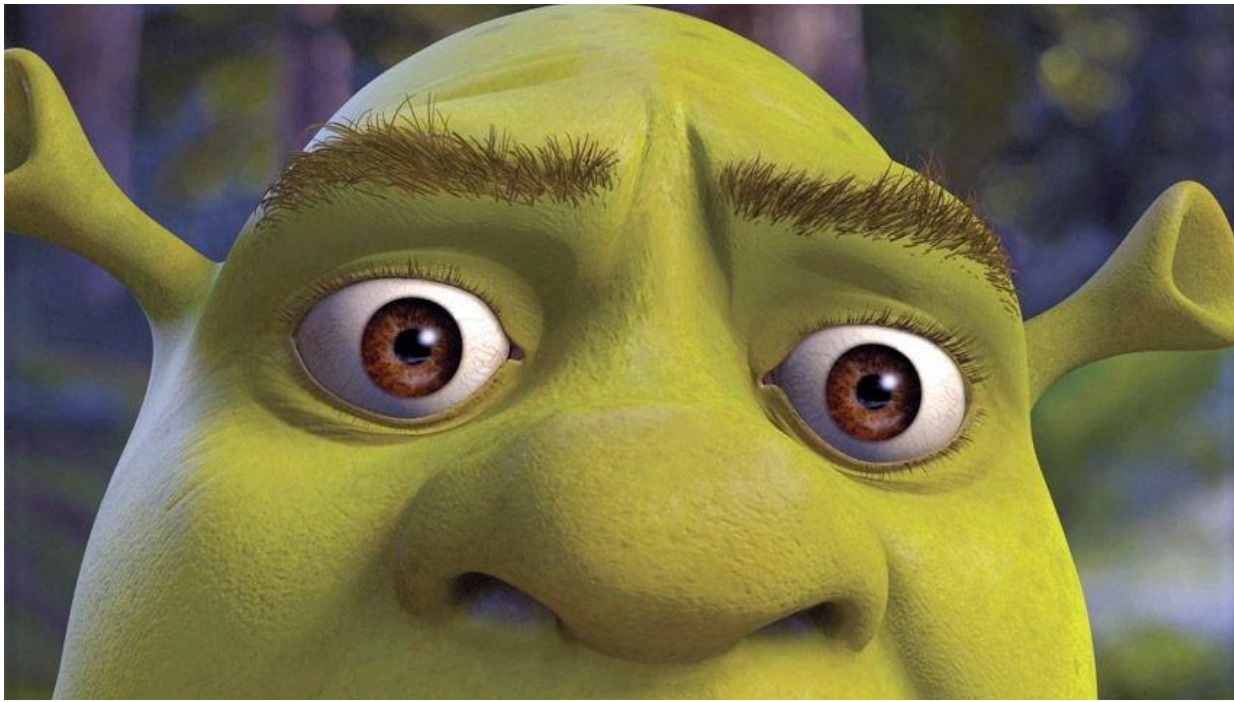
Over the shoulder (OTS)

This shot is usually used when filming a conversation between two people. Rather than filming them in a two-shot, you film the conversation twice, once with the camera facing person one character, then again facing the other. By shooting over each person's shoulder the audience remains quite close to the conversation whilst focussing on one character at a time.



Close up (CU)

Close-ups are great for showing emotion on character's faces, be it during a key point in a conversation scene, or with the character by themselves reacting to something. Emotions captured in close ups don't always need to be extreme emotions like crying or absolute fear, a close up might show us a character trying hard to hide their emotions, or displaying strength or determination. There are a lot of emotions outside the obvious ones we can capture with a close-up.



Extreme close-up (ECU)

Take your regular close-up and make it more extreme. Using a close-up we can usually see most of or all of a character's face and head. An extreme close-up often focuses on the eyes.

Extreme Close Up

Close Up

Loose Close Up

Tight Medium Shot

Medium Shot

Medium Full Shot

Full Shot

