THE **9**SHOTS GUIDE

THE **ONLY 9** SIMPLE SHOTS
YOU WILL NEED TO TELL **ANY STORY**

9SHOTS
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What: Character walks away from camera or out of shot
When: To end a moment/scene or create distance
How: Film wide and/or from behind

WIDE

Give your story space to breath

⚙ What it is

A wide shot shows the full environment around your subject. It can include people, landscape, buildings, anything that sets the stage.

❓ Why it matters

It's hard to tell a story without knowing where we are. A wide shot helps the viewer understand the scene before you jump into close-ups or action. It can also create feeling: wide = free, alone, lost, small.

✔ When to use it

- At the start of a scene
- When introducing a new location
- To show scale, distance, or isolation
- As a breather between tighter shots

🎬 How to film it

- Use a wide lens, or take enough distance
- Hold the camera steady (tripod or flat surface)
- Let the scene breathe, don't cut too fast
- Think about what makes the space feel interesting or emotional
- **Filming solo?** Use a tripod or steady surface - take enough distance if there's a person (or yourself) in the shot

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⚠ Common mistake

Not holding the shot long enough. It's easy to cut too soon, but wide shots often need more time so the viewer can really take in the scene. Let it breathe.

💡 Pro tip

Try moving the camera slowly into the scene (a push-in) to add energy or curiosity.
Even a small movement can turn a passive shot into an emotional one. You can also do this digitally (zooming in) in the edit later.

SHOT 01

MEDIUM

Not too close, not too far

⚙ What it is

A medium shot usually shows a person from the waist up. It's wide enough to see some of the surroundings, but close enough to see what someone's doing or feeling.

❓ Why it matters

This shot helps the viewer connect to both the character and the space around them. You still see their face (emotion) and body, but also what they're doing and where they are. It's a nice balance, and feels natural.

✔ When to use it

- For everyday actions, like working or moving
- After a wide shot, when you want to move in closer
- When you want to show both the person and what's around them

🎬 How to film it

- Hold the camera at waist or chest height
- Frame the character from the waist up
- Make sure you still see a bit of their surroundings
- **Filming solo?** Use a tripod and repeat your action a few times to have multiple takes

⚠
Common mistake

Cutting too close or too wide and losing the balance.
The medium shot works best when you still feel the space, but also clearly see the person.

💡
Pro tip

Try using a medium shot to follow up a wide shot. That small step closer helps the viewer feel more connected, without jumping straight into a close-up.

SHOT 02

CLOSE

Show what really matters

⚙ What it is

A close-up focuses on one thing, a face, a hand, an object, or a small detail. Whether it's emotion or details, it tells the viewer: pay attention to this.

❓ Why it matters

This is where emotion lives. It brings the viewer closer and makes things feel more personal or intense. You can also use close-ups to highlight actions or clues that move the story forward. Or to show details of objects that matter to the story.

✔ When to use it

- To show how someone feels
- When something small is important
- To guide the viewer's attention to one specific thing
- Making sure the viewer see's something that is important later on in the story

🎬 How to film it

- Get close to your subject
- Make sure the background isn't too distracting
- Keep the camera steady or use a simple tripod
- **Filming solo?** Use a tripod or experiment with handheld if you're not in the frame yourself.

⚠ Common mistake

Using close-ups too often. If everything is close, nothing stands out.
They hit harder when used with purpose and contrast.

💡 Pro tip

Use a close-up right after a wider shot to shift the viewer's focus, it creates a feeling that something "just got real". Or if you want to suprise the viewer, start with the close shot first, then reveal where he is with the wide shot after.

OVER THE SHOULDER
The character's focus

⚙ What it is

This shot is framed behind the shoulder of a character, so you see both (a little bit of) the character and what they're focused on.

❓ Why it matters

It gives the viewer a sense of being there, like they're standing just behind the character. You're not just showing an object, you're showing it through someone's presence. The object can be anything from another person, a screen, or something they just discovered.

✔ When to use it

- In conversations (or interactions) with others
- When someone is focused on an object or task
- When you want to show what they see, but still include them in the shot

🎬 How to film it

- Stand slightly behind and to the side of the character
- Make sure part of their head and shoulder is in frame
- Focus on what they're looking at
- **Filming solo?** Use a tripod and create a test shot first to see if you're in the exact right place. Or hold a jacket in front of the camera as "fake shoulder" to see how it looks.

⚠
Common mistake

Framing too little or too much of the person. Either the shoulder disappears, or it takes over the shot. Find that middle ground where you feel the presence, but still see the scene.

💡
Pro tip

If you want the focus to shift more to the object or task, move the camera a little closer behind the person. If you want it to feel more balanced, step back slightly and show more of their body.

SHOT 04

POINT OF VIEW
Through the character's eyes.

⚙ What it is

A POV (Point of View) shot is filmed from the exact perspective of the character. The camera shows what they're seeing so the viewer feels like they're inside the character's head.

❓ Why it matters

It puts the viewer right inside the scene. Instead of watching from the outside, they're seeing what the character sees.
It's simple, but super effective when you want to make something feel personal, tense, or real.

✔ When to use it

- To create immersion or intensity
- When you want the viewer to feel like the character
- To show an action or reaction from the inside

🎬 How to film it

- A wide lens works best
- Hold the camera where the character's eyes would be
- Point it at what they're looking at
- **Filming solo?** Film from your own eye level, and use your hands or objects to make it feel like you're really in the scene.
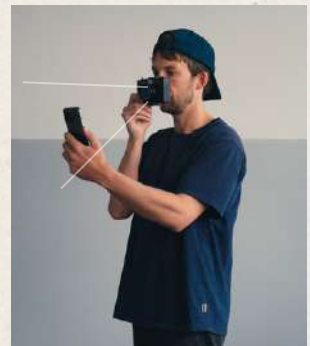
⚠ Common mistake

Holding the camera too low or too high, then it doesn't feel like the character's real point of view.
Keep it between mouth and eye level to stay believable.

💡 Pro tip

Try switching between the POV shot and a shot of the character looking straight into the camera.
This creates a full moment, first you see what the character sees, then you become what they're looking at.

SHOT 05

TRACKING

Follow the character, move the story

⚙ What it is

A tracking shot follows the character as they move through a space. The camera moves with them, walking, running, turning etc. instead of staying still.

❓ Why it matters

It gives energy and a sense of momentum. Instead of watching from a distance, the viewer moves with the character, like they're part of the moment. It can feel dynamic, calm, tense, it all depends on the story.

✓ When to use it

- When a character is walking, running, or going somewhere
- To create movement and direction in your story
- During scenes where something is changing or about to happen

🎬 How to film it

- Walk behind or alongside the character while holding the camera steady
- Use a gimbal (and a friend) if you have one, or just walk smoothly
- Let the pace match the energy of the scene
- **Filming solo?** Try to hold a camera or extended tripod while filming yourself - or just make use of the shot on the next page (movement in frame)

⚠
Common mistake

Moving too fast or too shaky. Unless that's part of the feeling you want.
If the scene doesn't need chaos, smooth and steady usually feels better to watch.

💡
Pro tip

If your character is rushing, panicking, or in a chaotic moment, try going handheld and let the camera move more freely. That shakiness can actually make the moment feel more intense and real.

SHOT 06

MOVEMENT IN FRAME

Character moves through frame

⚙ What it is

This shot stays completely still while the character moves through the frame, walking in, walking out, or passing by.

❓ Why it matters

It's a simple way to show change or progression without moving the camera.
It can feel quiet, calm or even a little distant like we're just observing the moment.

✓ When to use it

- When a character is moving through, entering or leaving a space
- To show someone drifting, wandering, or in transition to a next place (or scene)
- When you want a moment to feel still, natural, or reflective

🎬 How to film it

- Use a tripod, or steady surface
- Choose a background that tells us something about the scene
- Let the character move into, through, or out of the frame
- **Filming solo?** Just use a tripod or steady surface and walk through the scene yourself. Try it a few times from different directions

---

⚠ Common mistake

Placing the camera anywhere without thinking about what's in the background. Since the camera doesn't move, the background becomes part of the story, so keep that in mind when shooting.

💡 Pro tip

Hold the shot a little longer before and after the character moves. That breathing room gives the scene more impact, and helps with smoother editing later.

SHOT 07

PUSH IN/OUT
Move the camera to change how the moment feels

⚙ What it is

This shot slowly moves in closer (push-in) or further away (pull-out) from the character or scene. It's a way to shift the emotional energy without needing a big action or big acting.

❓ Why it matters

A push-in builds tension or focus, like something important is about to happen.
A pull-out does the opposite: it creates space, release, or distance. Even a small movement can make a moment feel stronger.

✔ When to use it

- To build up to a decision, realization, or emotion
- To create a sense of relief or closure
- To make a moment feel stronger without adding action

🎬 How to film it

- Move slowly toward or away from the character
- Use a gimbal, slider, or just walk carefully
- Or shoot still and zoom in or out during editing
- **Filming solo?** Just shoot wide from a tripod in the best possible quality, and zoom in or out digitally when you're editing.

⚠ Common mistake

Moving too fast or without a clear reason.
This shot works best when the movement feels motivated by the moment.

💡 Pro tip

If you want the smoothest result, ask a friend with a gimbal (or steady hands) to help with the camera move. It's a simple way to make your video stand out, especially when it fits to the moment.

SHOT 08

WALK AWAY
The character leaves, the moment lands.

⚙ What it is

This shot shows the character walking away from the camera, usually out of the frame or into the distance. It often marks the end of a scene or chapter.

❓ Why it matters

It gives a sense of closure. When a character walks away, it feels like they're moving on from a place, a moment, or a decision.
It also creates space for the viewer to reflect.

✔ When to use it

- At the end of a scene or chapter of your story
- To show a character leaving something behind
- To give the viewer a moment to breathe

🎬 How to film it

- Film from behind as the character walks away
- Or let the character leave the frame
- Leave enough room in the frame to feel the distance
- **Filming solo?** Just use a tripod or steady surface and walk through the scene yourself. Try it a few times from different directions

⚠
Common mistake

Not giving the character enough room to walk or cutting too early.
Let them walk long enough for the moment to land.

💡
Pro tip

Frame the shot so the space around the character tells us something. A wide empty desert feels different than a tight hallway and walking towards a door. The background helps shape how we feel about them leaving.

SHOT 09

SNORRICAM
Emotional intensity and disorientation

⚙ What it is

This shot is filmed with the camera attached to the character, usually facing them so their face stays centered while the background moves wildly around them.

❓ Why it matters

It creates full immersion. You're not just watching the character you're inside what they're going through. It works especially well when emotions are high, or when the scene feels chaotic or overwhelming.

✔ When to use it

- During intense emotions like panic, confusion, or excitement
- When the character is physically moving and you want to show their inner state
- To break the flow and make the viewer feel off balance

🎬 How to film it

- Attach the camera to your body or hold it yourself
- Keep it pointed at your face while you move
- The more background movement the better this effect works
- **Filming solo?** Put the camera on the tripod, make the camera face you and hold the legs of the tripod to your body as still as possible while moving. Or use your arm as extension and hold the camera yourself as still as possible.
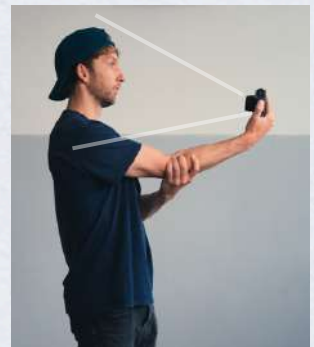
⚠
Common mistake
Using it just because it looks cool.
It only works when it fits the moment. Too much of it, and it loses impact.
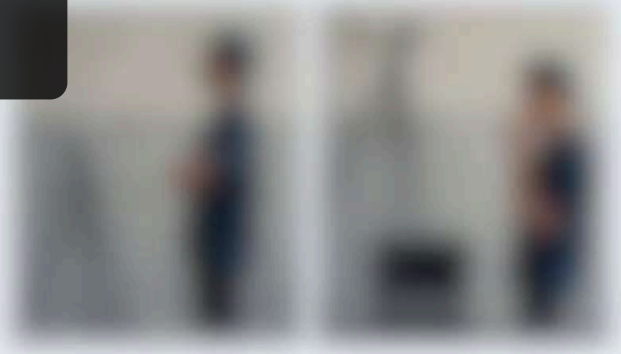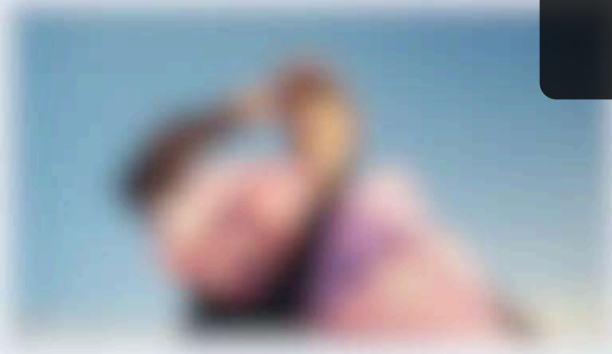
💡
Pro tip
Try filming one version where you exaggerate the movement and one where you keep it subtle.
Sometimes a small shift can feel more unsettling than total chaos.

CREATIVE 02

Want the full 16-shots guide with all 7 creative shots included?

Check out the next page

You've Got The Shots.
Now Tell The Story.

You just learned 9 of the most powerful shots I use to tell almost every story I make.

But shots alone aren't enough. A great video needs structure, emotion, and a reason to exist.

That's where the Story Starter Kit comes in.

I created this Kit for thoughtful creatives (like you) who want to practice storytelling or stop overthinking and finally finish something they're proud of.

Story to Shotlist Template
Turn your idea into a clear, story-driven plan that gets you filming fast.

Full 16-Shots Guide
Know what to film, how to film it, and why it helps your story.

Pre-Built Editing Projects
Learn by doing with a pre-made story edit template (Premiere Pro, DaVinci, FCP, and CapCut.)

Step-by-step Video Walkthrough
Follow along easily with 7 short videos. Each one guides you through a key step, from idea to final edit.

Doing is the best way to learn and this kit is built to help you *actually* create.

EXPLORE THE KIT

Or copy this link into your browser:
https://timrunia.com/starterkit