

Film Terminology

Field size (Bildausschnitt/Bildgröße)

- long shot (*Totale*): people/objects shown from a distance
- full shot: shot of the whole body/object
- medium shot: upper body/part of an object
- close-up (*Nahaufnahme*): head and shoulders
- extreme close-up: (*Detailaufnahme*) face only; detailed shot

Camera movements

- static shot: camera does not move
- to pan left/right (*horizontal schwenken*); to tilt up/down (*vertikal schwenken*)
- crane shot (*Kranfahrt*): camera moves flexibly in all directions on a crane
- to zoom in on/out of s.th. (e.g. a face)
- tracking shot (*Kamerafahrt*): camera is on a vehicle moving on the ground

Camera positions

E.g. A point-of-view shot is seen through a character's eyes.
Other examples are:

- establishing shot: shows location (long shot/pan) at the start of a scene
- overhead shot: bird's eye view
- over-the-shoulder shot
- reverse-angle shot: from the opposite side, usu. shows a dialogue partner

Camera angles

- high-angle shot (from above)
- eyelevel shot
- low-angle shot (from below)

A “shot” is an uninterrupted piece of film from one point of view.

Shots may be categorized according to:

- the position and angle of the camera in relation to the object
- the distance between the camera and the object being filmed

- A) How are the following shots filmed and for what reason? In what way is the first shot of Christof different from the other shots?

shot	field size / camera position / camera angle	function
	the first shot of the film: Christof close - up	to see his emotions it's more serious 'claustrophobic'
	the first shot of Truman: (medium shot) close-up in frame	to get a connection with him
	Seahaven: establishing shot high angle shot	show the location
	Truman in his car: low angle shot	stresses hidden camera
	Truman at the newsagent's: over the shoulder shot	interaction hidden camera
	Truman at the pier: low angle shot	we see him struggle to go on
	Meryl in the garden: eye level shot medium-shot	
	Truman and Marlon playing golf: high angle shot	to show the unfinished bridge

- B) What is your impression of Seahaven? Watch the excerpt and focus on:

- the town
- the people
- the music

Is it a place you'd like to live? Why (not)?