

Film terminology: How to analyse a film

Here are some illustrations of the most important film terminology for use in your discussions.

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 (Bildausschnitt / Bildgröße)



static shot: camera does not move



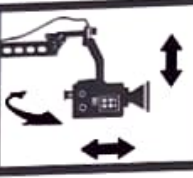
to zoom in on / out of sth. (e.g. a face)



to pan left / right *horizontal schwenken*; to tilt up / down *vertikal schwenken*



tracking shot (*Kamerafahrt*): camera is on a vehicle moving on the ground



crane shot (*Kranfahrt*): camera moves flexibly in all directions on a crane



hand-held camera

Camera angles



high-angle shot (from above)



eyelevel shot



Camera positions

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)



Top shot or God's eye view



overhead shot: bird's eye view



over-the-shoulder shot



reverse-angle shot: from the opposite side, usu. shows a dialogue partner

Gran Torino: Movie trailer

1. Read through the adjectives in the box and make sure that you understand what they mean. They are all taken from film reviews of Gran Torino. Copy them into the table, sorting them into positive, neutral and negative adjectives. Add more adjectives which can be used to describe and evaluate a film and sort them.

realistic - vigorous (forceful, dynamic) - predictable - touching - humorous - insightful - macho -
gritty (unsentimental, harsh) - clichéd - entertaining - well-paced (with a good speed) -
earnest (serious, intense) - thought-provoking - radical - compelling (convincing, fascinating)

Positive	Neutral	Negative

2. Watch the trailer and choose three to five adjectives that you consider to be most OR least suitable to describe the movie, judging from the trailer. Discuss your choice with your partner.
3. The trailer reveals conflicts between different characters or groups of characters. Watch the trailer again and use arrows to indicate where you think conflicts exist in the character web. Highlight the conflicts you expect to be most dominant in the movie.

