

# A glossary of screenwriting terms filmmaking definitions

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Screenwriting: The Art of Storytelling for Film and Television\*\*

Screenwriting, also known as scriptwriting, is the process of creating written material for film, television, or other audiovisual media. It involves developing characters, plot, and dialogue to convey a story or message to an audience.

### Screenplay Terminology

Common abbreviations and terms used in screenwriting include:

- **BG (Background):** The environment or setting where a scene takes place.
- **CU (Close-Up):** A camera shot that tightly frames a character's face or object, emphasizing their emotions or details.
- **RE (Reverse Angle):** A shot taken from the opposite side of an earlier shot, showing the same characters or objects from a different perspective.
- **OC (Off-Camera):** A character's dialogue or sound that is heard but the character is not shown on-screen.
- **ECU (Extreme Close-Up):** A very tight shot that focuses on a specific feature or detail, such as an eye or a piece of jewelry.
- **AV (Audio-Visual):** Refers to media that combines audio and visual elements, such as film and television.

### Screenwriting and Filmmaking

Screenwriting is an essential part of the filmmaking process. It provides a blueprint for the film's story, characters, and action. The screenplay guides the director, actors, and crew in creating the final product.

## Script in Filmmaking

The script is the written document that contains the screenplay. It provides a comprehensive description of the story, including:

- Plot outline
- Character breakdowns
- Dialogue
- Scene descriptions
- Technical specifications

## Additional Screenwriting Terminology

- **Screenplay:** Another term for a screenplay.
- **Screenwriter:** A person who writes screenplays.
- **Screenwriting Degree:** A college or university degree that focuses on the study of screenwriting.

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