



E L S T R E E

FILM AND TV
COMMON
LANGUAGE ON
SET

COMMON LANGUAGE ON A FILM SET

Film and TV sets can be daunting places if you have never been on one. Sometimes the language used on set can be confusing if you have never heard it before. We hope this list of terms and meanings helps you to feel more at ease if you hear it. Don't be afraid to ask if you are unsure what something means.

- **Action prop** - A handheld practical prop used by an actor, such as a phone or weapon.
- **Apple Box** - wooden crate (grip department)
- **ADR** - Additional Dialogue Recording/Replacement. When dialogue is rerecorded after filming has finished
- **B-roll** - used to capture cutaway shots
- **Backlot** - the open space on a studio lot that can be used for filming exterior sets
- **Bluescreen/Greenscreen** - the coloured screen used to create visual effects/CGI
- **Boom** - the pole used by the boom operator attached to the microphone
- **Bottle** - the lens of the camera
- **Crane** - used to get a 'crane shot', usually a crane to lift the camera in the air
- **Call Sheet** - a daily report produced by the 2nd AD with the details of the shoot
- **Call Time** - the time you are called to a given location
- **Cheat** - to move the actors to best suit the camera
- **Check the gate** - the 1st AD may call 'check the gate', the gate is the part of the camera that sits between the lens and the film, you check this to make sure there is no dust or hair in the gate.
- **Clapperboard/slate** - Used to mark each shot so that it's easier for the editor to sync the shots
- **Closed set** - usually for an intimate scene, a limited crew will be on set.
- **Continuity** - when a sequence is filmed over more than one day it's important to ensure the continuity of set, costume, hair and make-up is the same.
- **Craft Services/Crafty** - Tea, Coffee and water station
- **Crossing** - this is said before ANYONE crosses in front of the camera during a set up
- **Crowd base** - the extras place to report to or go back to
- **Dailies/Rushes** - recent footage ready to be watched
- **Dolly** - a wheeled cart used to create smooth camera movements
- **Fabrics** - textiles used in lighting to create an effect, i.e diffuse light.
- **First** - refers to the 1st Assistant Director (1st AD)
- **First Positions** - go to the start of the scene
- **Gaffer tape** - specific type of tape used for lots of different things, usually brightly coloured

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- **Gel** – used to create effects on a light
- **Green Room** – the room that talent can rest in between shots
- **Greens** – the department in charge of plants/greenery
- **Hold the Red** – another take is about to happen
- **Honey Wagon** – a portable loo
- **Hot set** – when a set is prepped and ready for shooting
- **Jib** – a camera is mounted one end and a counterweight on the other to create smooth camera movement, usually a ‘crane shot’
- **Sound Stage** – the name for the spaces that filming takes place, usually a large empty box
- **OB Truck** – short for Outside Broadcasting truck, usually used for filming outside of a studio, for live TV broadcasts
- **Last looks** – last chance to check the set equipment and actors before filming
- **Legs/Sticks** – the tripod legs
- **Magic Hour** – the hour before sunset when the sky is golden and the shadows are long
- **M.O.S** – Mute on Sound
- **Pagganinis/Pags** – stepped boxes to change the height
- **Pick-ups** – shots where crew were unable to film on the scheduled shooting day
- **Practicals** – lights that are part of the set i.e. desk lamp on a desk.
- **Quiet on set** – crew need to stop making noise as they are about to shoot
- **Mark** – actors have a mark to hit on the floor, usually in a specific colour gaffer tape (sometimes called Groucho’s, as in Groucho Marx)
- **Martini Shot** – the last shot of the day
- **Red light and bell** – used in a studio to tell people when filming is about to happen
- **Scrims** – a scrim is a sheet of fabric used in lighting to diffuse or modify light
- **Second** – refers to the 2nd Assistant Director (2nd AD)
- **Second Unit** – when another film unit films events, they may pick up missed footage from the first unit
- **Sides** – script pages of the scenes shot on that day (A5 sides)
- **Spark/Juicer** – electrician
- **Speed/speeding** – the sound is recording
- **Squib** – an explosive charge to create the effect of a bullet
- **Striking** – removing something from set
- **Talent** – refers to any actors or models on set
- **Turnover** – the camera start rolling
- **Unit base** – where the production team will be based on a location
- **A Veronica** – rhyming slang means a take (Veronica Lake, Take)
- **Video Village** – set up of AV monitors to watch the action and shots

WALKIE TALKIES ON A FILM SET

Walkie Talkie etiquette

Walkie Talkies are an important part of working on set. You have to be able to communicate quickly and clearly with other departments. Please find some tips and tricks and common language you need to know:

- **10-1** - "I need to go to the toilet (number 1)".
- **10-2** - "I need to go to the toilet (number 2)".
- **10-4** - "I understood the message".
- **Copy** - "I heard and understood the message".
- **Go again** - "I did not understand the message, please repeat".
- **Eyes on** - When someone or something is spotted (e.g. "I have eyes on Ariana Grande").
- **Lock it up** - An instruction to not let anyone through a door or area.
- **Flying in** - When someone or something is enroute (e.g. "I'm flying in Hugh Grant").
- **On it** - When you understand a request and are working on it.
- (Fran) **for** (Matt)... - 'Fran' (substitute for your name), 'Matt' (substitute the name for the person you want to reach).
- **Go for** (Matt) - "I heard you called for me, what's up".
- **Walkie check** - Checking if your radio is tuning in. When saying this into the radio, someone should reply with "good check" if your walkie is working.