

Elements of Film Language

Camera

Camera Shots

Wide Shot	Taken from far away, shows characters and a background
Medium Shot	Shows torso, face and some background
Close-up	Shows head and shoulders of a character
Point of View Shot	Shows you what a character is seeing

Camera Angles

Low angle	The camera is placed below eye level, looking up
High angle	The camera is placed above eye level, looking down

Camera Movement

Pan	The camera moves up, down or side to side
Tracking Shot	The camera is moved forwards, backwards or side to side on 'train' tracks

Focus

	How clear or sharp an image is
In focus	When an image is clear and sharp
Out of Focus	When an image is blurry
Soft Focus	When a character or subject has soft edges
Deep Focus	When the foreground, middle ground and background are all in focus
Shallow Focus	When one part of the image is in focus, and another part is not

Mise-en-Scène

	How the scene is set or staged
Composition	Describes how things are positioned in the frame
Colour Palette	The range of colours chosen for a scene
Setting	Where a scene takes place
Props	Any items used in a scene
Costume & Makeup	Anything worn by an actor

Lighting

Hard Lighting
Soft Lighting

Direct, e.g. a street on a sunny day, or a character in a spotlight
Indirect, e.g. a street on a cloudy day, or a character at a candlelit dinner

Sound and Music

Composed Score
Dialogue
Narration
Sound Effects

Music written by a composer for a film
Words spoken between characters
A voice that tells the story
Sounds that are added to a scene

Editing

Cut
Rapid cutting
Slow cutting

How shots are put together

When one shot ends and another one begins.
e.g. action scenes
e.g. suspenseful or dramatic scenes

Performance

Performing

The way in which actors play with facial expressions, body language, voice as they perform.