

# Do You See What I See?

Just like camera frames and angles, camera movements play a part in storytelling. There are many ways a camera can move. Here are the main ones:

**a. Pan** – The camera moves horizontally, sometimes to keep a moving object in the picture.

**b. Tilt** – The camera moves vertically, like you're scanning someone from head to toe.

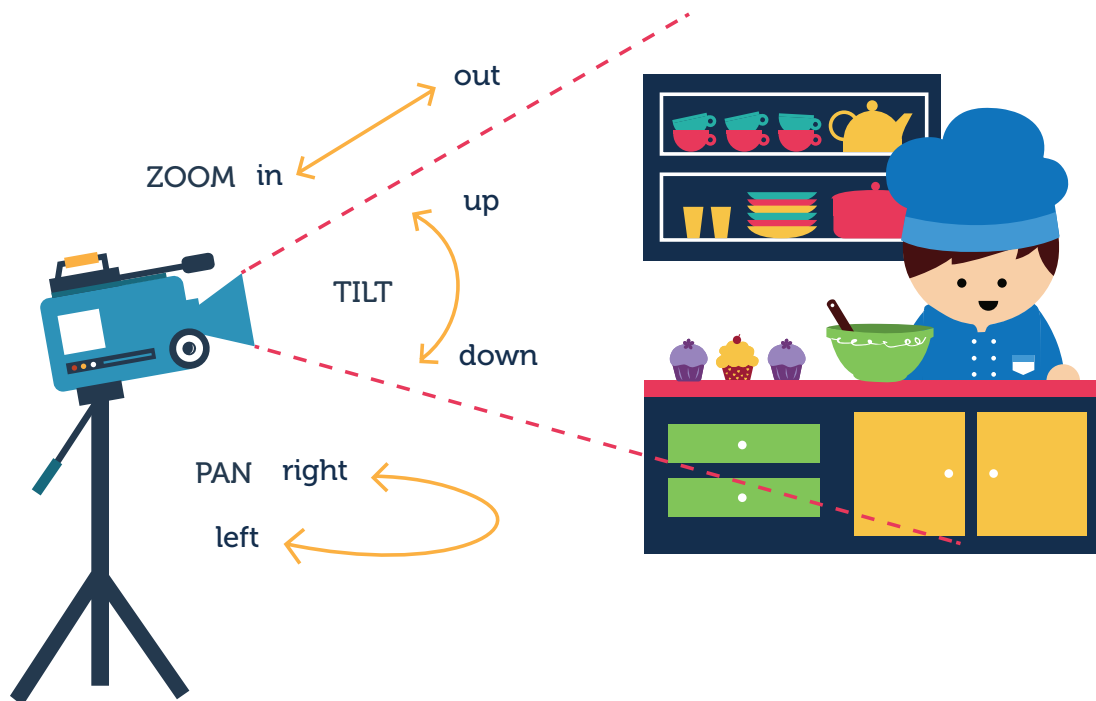
**c. Tracking** – Also called a dolly shot, the camera follows a moving figure. If the camera needs to cover a big distance, a track is built and the camera runs along it—hence the name tracking shot. The camera may also be mounted to something moving, like a car.

**d. Handheld** – Exactly what it sounds like, this shot requires that the camera be held in the hand. As you can imagine, the camerawork might be a little unsteady with some shaking, but the effect is that the scene feels very real and immediate.

**e. Steadicam** – A fairly new innovation, a Steadicam is a camera held in a harness worn by the camera operator. This device lets the camera operator move around more freely, capturing shots much more easily without any of the shaking you see from handheld shots.

**f. Crane shot** – The camera is attached to a crane to allow for free range of motion: it can move in any direction, swoop in on action, or move diagonally out of it.

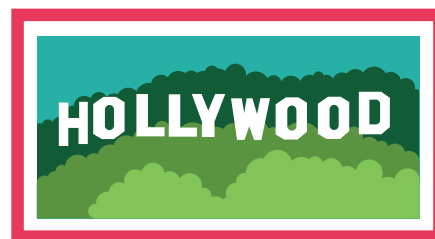
**g. Aerial** – Usually taken from a helicopter, aerial shots enjoy great flexibility: it can go anywhere, keep up with anything, move in and out of a scene, and give a feeling of exhilaration and action.



**h. Zoom** – As the camera zooms in, you get closer to a subject. As it zooms out, you get farther away. This is accomplished with zoom lenses, which can take you closer even as you stay in place.

**i. The Hitchcock Zoom** – Also known as the Dolly Zoom, the famous horror movie director, Alfred Hitchcock, invented this neat trick to use in his film, *Vertigo*. As the camera moves toward the subject, it is simultaneously zooming out, keeping the subject in place while distorting the background. See if you can catch it in the movies *Jaws*, *E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial*, *Ghostbusters*, and *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*.

Equipped with this cool bag of camera tricks, you're ready to tell your own story. Write a short story that incorporates **four** of the camera techniques described above. For example, you might write, "Our story begins in Los Angeles as we sweep over the iconic hilltop Hollywood sign from the air." In this case, the reader can see herself flying over the sign in an *aerial shot*!



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