

Media

MOVIE CAMERA MOVES AND MOODS

NAME OF CAMERA MOVE	HOW THE CAMERA MOVES	"MOOD" CREATED
Pan left	Swivels from right to left	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview or "establishing shot"; surveying the landscape
Pan right	Swivels from left to right	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done quickly: detachment • Done very slowly: lingering sentimental attachment • Going back and forth: a feeling of searching and seeking
Tilt up	Pivots up to point upward (Example: from toes to head of subject)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toward sky, or toward light: uplifting, adventurous, joyful • Up to a person: feeling small and dominated
Tilt down	Pivots down to point downward (Example: from head to toes of subject)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From sky to eye level: coming back to "reality" • From eye level toward ground: sad, melancholy
Zoom in	Framing changes gradually from a wide shot to a close-up. The frame holds a lot, then closes in on just a detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowly: anxiety or intensity, romance, intimacy • Quickly: panic, anxiety, sudden interest, alarm
Zoom out	Framing changes gradually from a close-up to a wider shot. The frame holds a small detail, then opens up to reveal more of the scene.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling of being a "fly on the wall" or "above it all" • From close-up to medium shot: easing into a scene • From medium to long shot: leaving a scene
Dolly (right, left, forward, or backward)	Slides smoothly in the direction indicated. To make this move a smooth one, the camera is set on a wheeled cart (or dolly), on a track. Sometimes the move is called a "tracking shot," especially if it snakes around a lot (following the path of one character, for example).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Busyness and crowdedness • Feeling of being followed or of following a subject • From over the shoulder: point of view of a character