

CAMERA ANGLES

The position of the camera (in terms of height from the ground) in relation to the subject being filmed.

Low-Angle Shot (LA): The camera is positioned below the subject, and shoots upward at it. The effect is to make the subject look dominating, powerful, as if a child were looking up at an adult. Or, it can be used ironically to express the exact opposite. An extreme low angle (ELA) would be an extreme variant.

Eye-Level Shot: The camera is located at normal eye level (five to six feet from ground level) in relation to the subject. Unless otherwise noted in the script, the camera will automatically be set up at eye level. When analyzing a scene, eye-level shots do not need to be indicated as such; the reader will assume that this is the position of the camera, unless otherwise indicated.

High-Angle Shot (HA): The camera is positioned somewhere above the subject and shoots down at it. The effect is often to make the subject seem weaker, or (as with the low angle shot) ironically the opposite. An extreme high angle would be an extreme variant. In a bird's eye shot the camera is placed directly over the subject.

Dutch or Oblique Angle Shot: The camera is tilted so that on screen, the horizon appears to be tilted. Often used as a subjective shot to indicate stress, such as when a character is drunk or drugged. Or it is used in film noir, mystery and suspense.