

Director & Camera Communication Glossary

Cutting & Switching

Ready

Camera is framed, exposed, and stable. Safe to take.

Take

Switch to the called camera immediately.

Hold

Maintain current shot. No movement, no reframing.

Stay

Remain on this camera longer than expected.

Standby

Prepare the shot but do not adjust yet.

Cut

Immediate switch. No dissolve.

Fade

Smooth transition. Used sparingly, usually in worship or transitions.

Cut on meaning

Switch when content changes, not movement.

Shot Size & Framing

Wide / Establishing

Full stage or room context.

Full Body

The subject's full body is in the frame and centered.

Medium

Waist-up or chest-up. Primary storytelling shot.

Tight / Close

Head-and-shoulders or tighter. Emotional emphasis.

Reset wide

Return to a wide shot to reestablish context.

Clean frame

No distractions, no clipped limbs, balanced composition.

Headroom

Vertical space above the subject's head.

Camera Movement**Pan**

Horizontal movement left or right.

Tilt

Vertical movement up or down.

Push

Slow zoom or dolly in. Subtle and intentional.

Pull

Slow zoom or dolly out.

Lock it

Stop all movement. Hold the frame.

Float

Very slow, almost imperceptible movement.

Reframe

Adjust composition without changing shot size significantly.

Drift

Unintentional movement. To be corrected.

Zoom & Lens Language

Zoom in / Zoom out

Adjust focal length. Use slowly unless directed otherwise.

Crash zoom

Fast, aggressive zoom. Rare. Intentional only.

Punch in

Small, quick zoom for emphasis.

Don't chase

Do not follow minor movements with zoom.

Focus & Depth

Sharp / Soft

In focus or out of focus.

Racking

Intentional focus shift between subjects.

Ride focus

Manual focus adjustments during movement.

Hold focus

Lock focus once established.

Problem Callouts (Camera → Director)

Blocked

Subject obstructed.

Losing it

Shot is about to fail.

Need a reset

Frame, focus, or exposure needs correction.

I'm hot / I'm dark

Exposure is off.

I'm shaking

Stability issue.

Directorial Intent & Flow**Let it breathe**

Hold the shot longer than normal.

Build

Prepare for increasing energy or movement.

Peak

Highest emotional or musical moment.

Release

Pull back visually after a peak.

Read the room

Adjust visual pace to atmosphere.

What We Don't Say

- "Uh..."
- "Maybe..."
- Commentary mid-service
- Emotional reactions on comms

Shared Mental Model

- Directors lead the story
- Cameras anticipate the moment
- Silence = everything is going right

Team mantra:

“Clear calls. Clean shots. One story.”