

Below is a short list of terms used by video editing professionals. Some of them you may know, others you may not know. We hope you find this list a valuable one.

1. **Cut** – The generic term used when splicing a clip on a timeline so that you can switch scenes or shots. You can then add transitions or dissolves to the cut to make it a smoother one.
2. **Cutaway** – A shot of something (or someone) related to the principal action to show and/or explain something further. It's often used to show something in detail (e.g. a person talking about a new car cuts away to the car as he is talking about it). It's a great technique to cover up jump cuts (see below). Often used when people mess up lines and start over from a mid point, a cutaway can be a great way to hide that cut.
3. **Jump Cut** – An abrupt cut between two similar shots, but the position of the person (or item) in focus shifts on the screen abruptly (therefore, jumping from one place to another). Can be an effective tool to “shock” the user’s attention. Cutaways are a great way to hide jump cuts.
4. **Rough Cut** – This is usually the first edit of a show and/or video. With the rough cut, there are no transitions, no sound sweetening, no titles and/or graphics. However, you can use the rough cut to give your client an idea of the content and length of the video.

5. **J-Cut** – A cut between two shots (A & B), where shot B's audio starts before its video (shot A's video overlaps part of shot B's audio). For example, a scene starts with a wide angle shot of a park with two people talking (clip A) and you hear their conversation (from Clip B) and then you cut to Clip B's video (a close-up of the people talking).



6. **L-Cut** – A cut between two shots (A&B), where shot B's video starts before it's audio (shot A's audio overlaps part of shot B's video). For example, a transition from a close up of two people speaking (Clip A video) to a wide angle shot of them speaking (Clip B video with Clip A's audio still running underneath it).



7. **Montage** – A sequence of related (or unrelated) shots juxtaposed with each other to create a certain mood. Often used with music in the background. Great tool to highlight a person's life accomplishments.

8. **Dissolve** – A gradual transition from one image to another. Dissolves are used a lot in slideshow videos.

9. **Fade To Black / Fade From Black** – A type of transition that slowly fades the outgoing clip to black. Usually used at the end of a clip to signal the end of the video. Fading from black works the opposite way. It opens up a scene from black to the actual shot. Usually used in openings of a scene.

10. **Compositing** – The act of placing multiple layers of video, images and special effects to create a full seamless shot. Special effects are usually made up of many layers of lights, reflections, shadows, video images, all mixed together to give an illusion of reality.

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