

Using the Video Camera

Think of the video camera as your paints and paintbrush for the video you are about to create. Understanding how to use the camera will make your video project easier and more enjoyable.

Basic Camera Features

Nearly all video cameras have some basic features that you should be aware of and be capable of using. These features include:

Play/Record/Fast-Forward/Rewind. These are the basic controls of the camera. Find out where they are located and how to use them. Some cameras allow more than one way to record. Check to see if your camera includes a locking record button or any other features that prevent accidental recording.

Zoom and Close-Up. This feature allows you to move in for a close-up or back for a wider view without moving the camera.

Light Settings. All cameras have different light settings. Experiment with your camera to determine how much lighting you will need when shooting.

Special Features. Check to see if your camera has any special features such as fade-in or single frame recording. Learn to use them if you think they will improve your video.

Basic Camera Operations: Movement

Your video crew needs to learn these terms for moving the camera:

Zoom: Move the camera closer toward or farther away from your subject.

Pan: Rotate the camera horizontally from side-to-side.

Tilt: Rotate the camera up and down.

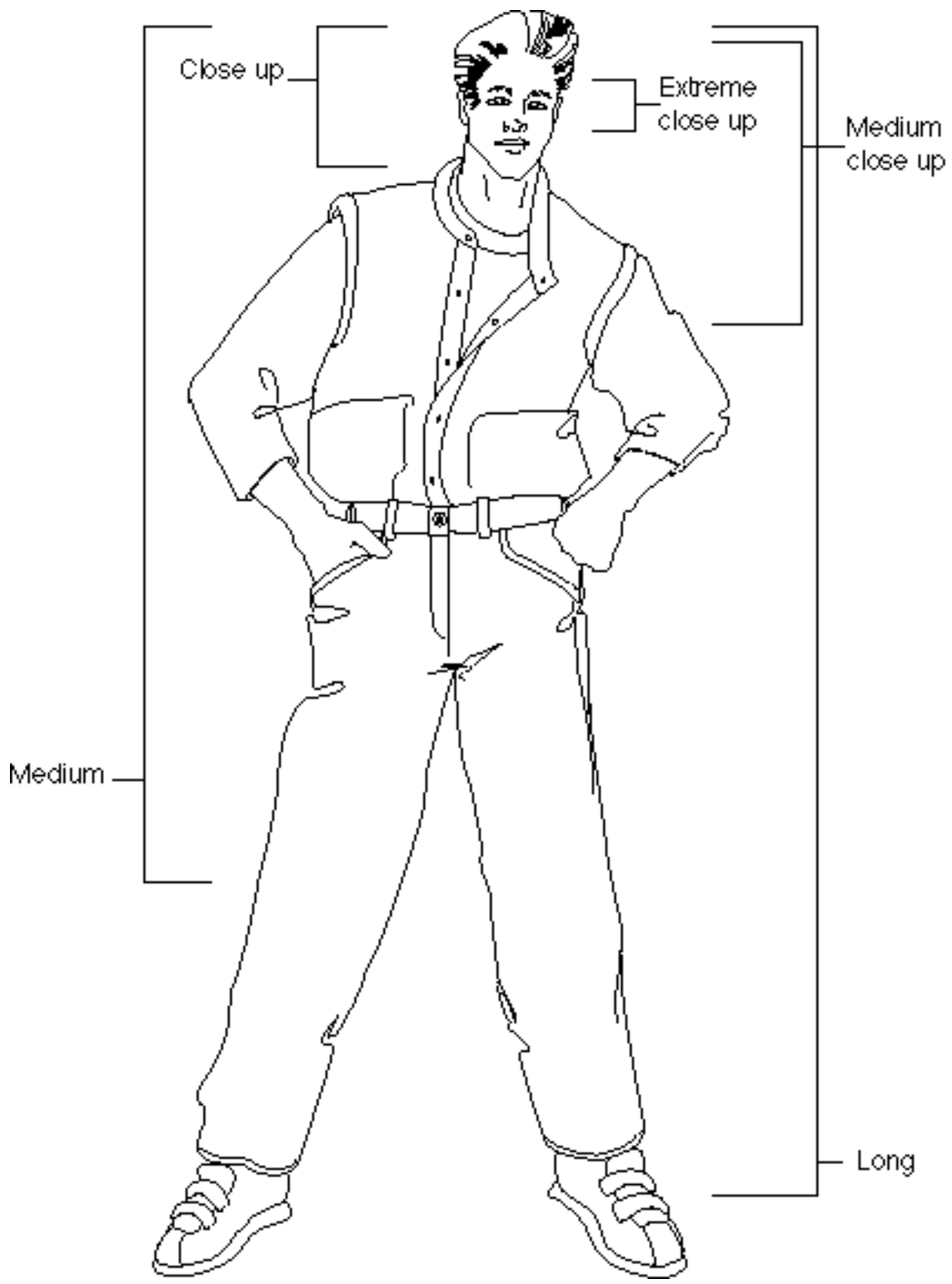
Dolly: Move the camera forward or backward.

Truck: Move the camera to the left or to the right.

Basic Camera Operations: Distances

Familiarize yourself with the illustration of camera shots on the following page so that you can write camera directions for your storyboards. Here are a few things to remember about camera distances:

- A variety of camera distances and angles make a video more interesting.
- Use close-ups to highlight important subjects in a scene.
- Use distance shots to show the larger backdrop of a scene.



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