



TV TECHIE LINGO – what does that camera crew mean?

AKA Broadcast TERMINOLOGY AND SIGNALS

Here are some of the key terms from my ATV World TV days that might prove useful to know:

In Studio	- a filming space permanently set up for video, TV or film shoots
OB	- Outside Broadcast, anywhere other than studio – can mean inside or out
On Set	- the designated area in the studio or OB where filming takes place
Prod / Dir / AD	- written shorthand for Producer, Director and Assistant Director
C1 / C2 / C3	- written shorthand for Camera 1 / Camera 2 etc
Tally Light	- the red light on top of the camera that shows the camera is live recording
Mic	- microphone
Lav	- short for Lavellier or lapel small mic that clips on to your clothes
Time span	- allocated time for delivery
A stand up	- standing when presenting
A sit down	- sitting when presenting
A dry run	- rehearsal
A Take (T1, T2...)	- a segment recording (shorthand written version)
ON AIR	- you are recording with the camera and sound live
Autocue	- presenter's script reading machine
FM	- Floor Manager
VT	- Video Tape literally – now used as direction to play an insert clip
Playback	- playing the last Take to check

FM in TV Studio Signals:

Countdown In/Out	- 10 Seconds to start / close indicated in studio by the FM hands countdown
Action signal	- Thrust of fingers towards you to start presenting i.e. you're ON AIR
2 Fingers held up	- Signals two minutes until close
1 Finger held up	- Signals one minute until close
30 seconds signal	- Cupped forefinger with thumb OR crossed hands or arms
"Wrap up"	- end as soon as possible, time is running out
Wind Up/Close	- Clockwise circle with index finger or arm – you must close NOW!
Out of time signal	- i.e. STOP! Flat hand/arm swept horizontally in front of you
Stretch time signal	- i.e. keep going Pull both hands apart rhythmically

Camera angles / shots:

Long shot / LS	- full body shot from a distance
Mid Shot / MS	- shot from hips or waist up
Close Up / CU	- close Up - usually to your waist / chest
XCU	- extreme Close Up or head shot is head and shoulders of face only
1- Shot	- one person in shot
2- Shot	- two or more people in shot
Wide angle shot	- recording more width
Long shot	- recording more distance
Zoom In / Out	- camera lens zooms in towards you or out
Pan Left / Right	- camera moves to your right side or left side – opposite to your L/R
Pan In / Out	- camera moves sideways on to you or off you
Insert	- pre-recorded segment relating to program



Other Production and Editing Terms:

Pre-Production	- any planning before you start filming
Production	- the actual filming
Post-Production	- everything after production from edits, to uploads, to VSEO + marketing
VSEO	- Video Search Engine Optimisation for Google and search engine promotion
Edit	- cutting the raw footage filmed together to make a congruent story
Montage	- a video with a series of visuals still or moving that create the whole story
Mini-montage	- less clips than a full montage video – both can have PTCs and VOs
PTC	- piece to camera – your talking head
VO	- Voice Over – you talking over visuals still or moving
Vox Pops	- “Voice of the people” – quick OB interviews with general public or guests
Edit timeline	- in the editing software, where the editor puts clips to edit together
Time Code:	- the edit time in / out in minutes ' and seconds " e.g. in at 1'00 + out 1'10"
Transitions	- the special effect options to change from one shot to the next
Edit cut / fades	- simple transition that is a quick cut or fade from one scene to the next
Cross fade	- mixing from one scene to the next using a soft fade instead of sharp cut
FTB / FTW	- fade to black / fade to white – usually at the end of the video
Audio	- all sound on your video incl. speaking, VOs, background, soundtrack music
Intro	- the visuals intro titles to your video OR your introduction script
Close	- the end lines of your script, the last words e.g. “how will you close?”
Outro	- the visuals or end credits of your video, after you have finished
Links	- the connecting parts between shots or scenes – used to cover edit cuts
Captions	- the text that appears on screen
Lower Third	- the banner with text that appears at the bottom of the screen in / out
Titles	- can be the opening intro titles or guest titles – check which is meant?
Credits	- usually End credits – messages of thanks, production end plates or slides

MY TV TECHIE LINGO NOTES...



MY NOTES...

A large, empty rectangular box with a brown border, intended for writing notes.