

SET ETIQUETTE

To ensure film productions run well, there is a sequence of instructions and commands that are used on set. These instructions are called out by the first assistant director or, on smaller sets, by the director. Following this standard sequence helps to keep things organised and makes sure that everybody knows what they are doing.

1. The camera operator sets up the shot by framing it correctly and positioning the camera appropriately to achieve the angle the director wants.
2. When it's ready, the director calls out "Quiet please" or "Quiet on set". This is a zero-tolerance rule. People must be quiet in order to hear the other commands. Any noise could be picked up by the microphones, resulting in a false take which could mean you'll have to start all over again. The sound recordist will listen for a few seconds and will either reply "Speed" to show they are happy with the sound conditions or give the director a nod.
3. The director can now call out "Roll camera".
4. The camera operator starts the camera. When they're sure it's recording (after about five seconds) they call out "Camera rolling".
5. Now the director waits five to ten seconds before calling "Action" or giving a visual signal.
6. The actors or presenter do their part.
7. The director waits five to ten seconds at the end of the scene before saying "Cut".
8. The camera operator stops the camera.
9. The camera operator and director playback the footage to decide if they want to keep the take or delete it and start again.

"QUIET ON SET"

"ROLL CAMERA"

"CAMERA ROLLING"

"ACTION"

"CUT"

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10. A command of "Reset" means the scene needs to be done again, so everyone will return to their original places. If the director is happy, however, they will say "Move on" and the next scene can be set up.
11. The first assistant director fills in the shot log with details of the successful take.
12. "That's a wrap" can only be said once all scenes are completed. This signals the end of production and means everyone can relax.

"RESET"

"MOVE ON"

"THAT'S A WRAP"

Practise this several times before you go on set or on location for the first time. Your crew should know this sequence and the associated commands off by heart.

