

Paying careful attention to mise en scène can make all the difference in creating something that looks and feels professionally produced. Use this sheet to help you plan your mise en scène before you start filming.

Consider the idea for your film – what locations do you need? How many? List them below.

WHAT LOCATIONS DO I NEED?	
SCENE	LOCATION NEEDED
Opening scene	Quiet restaurant

Consider what locations you might be able to use – your home, a place of work, your school, a friend’s house, a youth club? List them below.

WHAT LOCATIONS DO I HAVE AVAILABLE TO ME?	
LOCATION I AM GOING TO USE	WHAT I NEED TO TRANSFORM IT
Uncle’s dining room	Swap large table for two smaller ones; add tablecloths and a flower on each table. Use cutlery. Ask cousin to be waiter. Get extra actors for couple dining in background. Close curtains. Experiment with lighting.



On the day of your shoot, make sure you’ve got everything you need. Allow enough time to set up your scene before you start filming.

Before filming, go through this checklist to see whether you've considered all the aspects of mise en scène.

HAVE YOU...

- Removed all the posters/ pictures/ removable wall coverings that wouldn't look correct in your scene?
- Removed anything else that isn't needed or wouldn't look correct (making sure you know where to put it back afterwards)?
- Added props that might make the scene look more realistic?
- Thought about the costume details of the main character of the scene? Is it consistent with the other scenes they have appeared in?
- Considered whether to use extra background actors to bring the scene to life?
- Thought about where to position all the characters and any important props so that they can be clearly seen?
- Thought about how to frame the shot to exclude elements that might make the mise en scène unconvincing?
- Thought about where to place your lights so that some parts of the frame remain in shadow while others are more brightly lit?
- Practised the scene to make sure that everyone knows what to do and the cameraperson can capture all the action?

NOTES

Large empty rectangular box for taking notes.