

2-1-1 Video Recording

When recording dialog with 2 characters, we often use a 2-1-1 technique. We simulate a 3-camera shoot with one camera that moves from place to place.

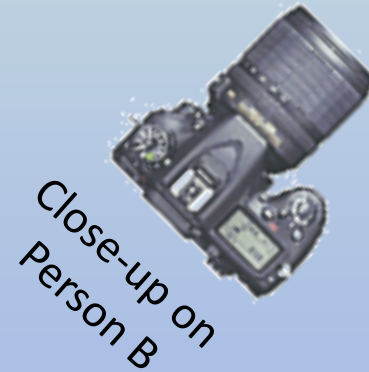
We usually start with a mid-shot of both people for one or two lines of dialog apiece.

We then move to a close-up of one of them for one line of dialog.

We then move to a close-up of the other person for one line.

Hence the name 2-1-1.

Repeat as necessary through the conversation. We usually end the dialog with another mid shot to bookend the scene.



Mid Shot on Both



2-1-1 Video Recording

The first mid-shot acts as an establishing shot for the conversation, after which, close-up shots have context.

Changing camera angles keeps the video interesting. It also has the added benefit of making each take shorter, which means the actors do not need to memorize very many lines. Each shot might only last 5 or 10 seconds. Reaction shots are often best as close-ups to show facial expressions.

With a script that does not have any camera direction, you can decide how to break up the camera angles during the recording process.



Shot 1 would be a mid shot of A and B talking. Each Person might say one or 2 lines



Shot 2 would be a close-up shot of A. They might say only one line.



Shot 3 would be a close-up shot of B. They might say only one line. The scene would alternate between these 3 camera angles .



The Final Shot would be a mid shot of A and B talking to bookend the scene. Each Person might say one or 2 lines



2-1-1 Video Recording - Example

Watch this example:

<https://vimeo.com/495268491>

A close look at the script reveals that it has 8 lines. On location, we decided to split it up as indicated on the right.

To avoid moving the camera after every shot, we did both the mid shots first.

Then we moved the camera to record both of the close-up shots of B

Then we moved the camera to record the one close-up shot of A



Video Conversation using 2-1-1 recording

Mid Shot	A: What did I do?
	B: You know what you did.
	A: Just tell me.
Close-up	B: If you can't figure it out on your own...
Close-up	A: I'm not a mind reader.
Close-up	B: They're called social clues.
Mid Shot	A: Wait, you're not talking about...
	B: Oh, he (she) can be taught.

