

Matching Action Exercise Project 3

Objective

Engage the viewers with a story. Come up with an idea and stage a scene where you can control the action. Shoot a sequence of shots where the action overlaps and then edit the shots together to create the illusion of one continuous sequence. Match the action between the shots as precisely as you can so that the timing is continuous.

This is an individual project, but you are allowed to work in teams of 2 so the other person can be your subject. But each person is required to shoot and edit their own matching action sequence. Also, you need to include NATS so get good sound.

Total Running Time (TRT) At least one minute, but not much more than two minutes.

Matching Action Defined

Matching Action occurs when you edit a sequence of shots of the same action in a logical order, i.e. cause and effect, which creates the illusion of one continuous action. For example, a person making a latte can be broken down into wide, medium and close-up shots, with changes in camera position to create new angles. Each shot is a component of the larger story, which can be edited together to convey detail and advance the story. Different angles of the same action are edited to continue the action from one shot to the next.

You can edit matching action in one of two ways (try both)

- 1) **Cutting after the action**, which shows the relative positions of hands or body before and after the motion. For example, when a person raises a cup of tea to their lips, the cut occurs after they have raised the cup fully. The next shot shows the person taking a sip.
- 2) **Cut on the motion itself**, where the cut occurs during the motion. For example, the edit is made just after the person starts to raise the cup. The next shot continues the motion where the cup

finally reaches the person's mouth. This type of edit is considered the most seamless, which means that it goes largely unnoticed by viewers.

Be creative with your camera angles and make sure the lighting between shots is consistent.

The potential for matching action increases when there is plenty of repetition in the action. Sometimes, you can arrange for the subject to repeat the action, but in news packages you don't want to direct your subjects to do things they would not otherwise do. Keep it honest, however, in anything you shoot, keep an eye towards detail observing which hand the person is using to perform a certain action, how full the glass of water is between shots, etc. Each action gives opportunities to shoot wide, medium and close-up shots.

Continuity errors and their solution – the Cutaway

A common continuity problem occurs when you try to match the approximate position of a person's hands between shots. If when you edit the hands are raised in one shot, but are lowered in the next, then you end up with a continuity error.

Another continuity error happens when you cut from a wide shot of a person and then to a facial close-up, but they're looking in a different direction. You need another shot to insert between these two shots to avoid the continuity error. Perhaps a shot of what distracts their attention.

When you edit a sequence, you don't always have to match the action in every single shot especially when it could lead to continuity errors. To avoid editing yourself into a corner, get a shot that lets you cut away from the principal action. This shot is known as a **cutaway**.

A cutaway may be a close-up of the person's face, a shot of a clock on the wall, a scoreboard, a reaction from the crowd, etc. These shots can save you from embarrassing continuity errors when you are unable to match the action specifically from shot to shot. But remember -- the cutaway should be part of the story.

Matching Action in News Packages:

During the production shoot, keep your eyes peeled for matching action opportunities: a person typing at a computer; digging a hole; reading a book; playing catch; packing a box (notice that many of these ideas involve people, but sometimes you can also show machines like a bulldozer or robots). Exploiting the action in your photography will help you create more dynamic sequences.

Matching Action in Motion Pictures:

In motion pictures, scenes are usually shot using a single camera, which has to be repositioned for each angle. For a scene involving a conversation between two people, the scene is broken down into a wide shot (or master shot, showing both people at once) and then close-ups of the principal actors. The potential for matching action is far greater when the people are having a dinner conversation. However, the challenge is that you have to block the action precisely so that a person with their fork raised in one shot has it raised in the next. Or a glass shows the same amount of liquid when taken from other angles.

IF YOU'RE STAGING A SCENE, THEN STORYBOARDING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED! Once you come up with an idea, draw a storyboard to help you visualise the sequence before you begin shooting. This will make the production process go smoother and FASTER, saving you time!

What you need to turn in:

Export as an H.264 and make sure you name the file name in the following manner, Your Name_Matching Action

Below is a matching action example

<https://vimeo.com/49519308>