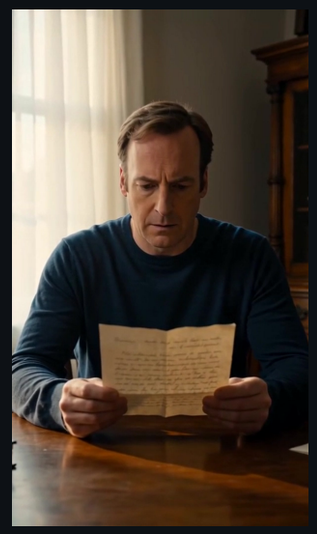
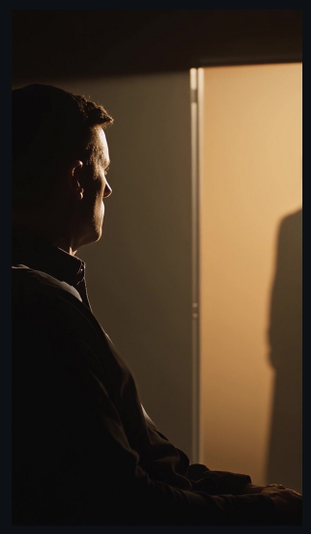
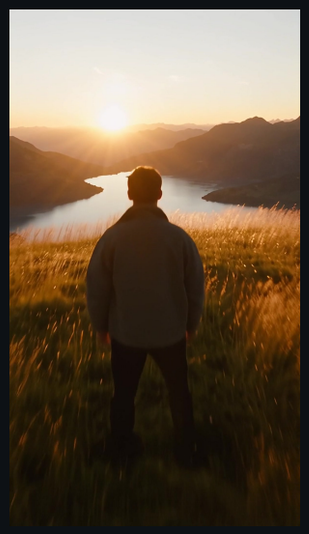
CAMERA MOVEMENT

The visual prompt field guide





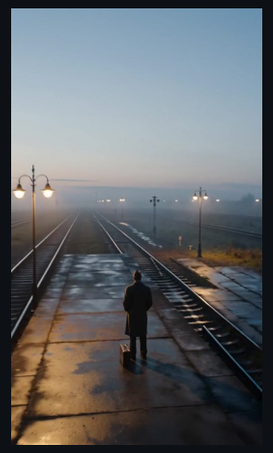


31 movements. See the shot. Understand the path. Write the prompt.

Actual frames from the L3V studio demo library, paired with path diagrams, visual cues and copy-ready examples.

AI-generated demonstrations are illustrative. Use the geometry notes to judge a result; generation may not reproduce every constraint exactly.

Turn the shot you imagine into a prompt you can use.



Choose the workspace for your next project

EXPLORE AI CINEMA STUDIO

Shot framing, camera movement and lighting.
https://cinema.l3v.ai/

EXPLORE AI PROMPT STUDIO

Visual prompt builder plus audio direction.
https://prompts.l3v.ai/

EXPLORE AI DIRECTOR+

Both collections combined: all five studios.
https://director.l3v.ai/

This guide was created from the interactive Camera Movement Studio in AI Cinema Studio. Explore Cinema Studio to watch the movements and build your shot direction.

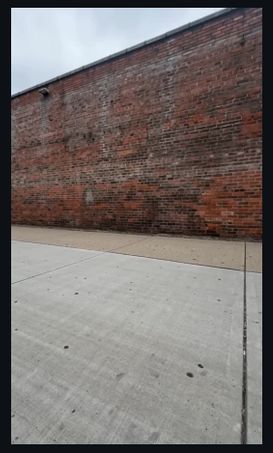
Find your move

Read each strip left to right: early, middle, late. The diagrams explain geometry; the frames show one generated interpretation. A still sequence cannot prove smoothness - watch the linked demo to assess motion.

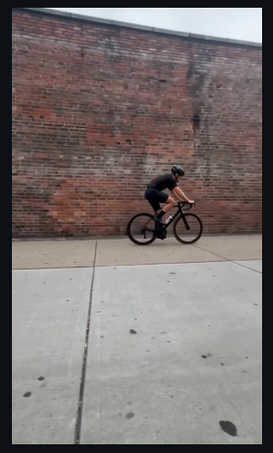
01 / ROTATION

Pan

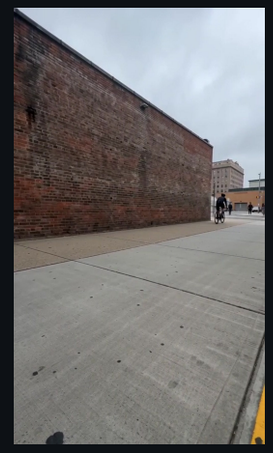
Turn left or right from one fixed position



EARLY

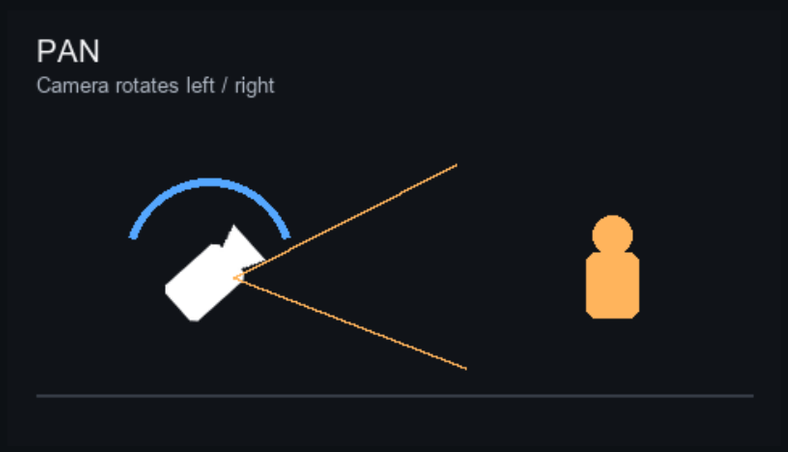


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera rotates left or right from a fixed physical position.

LOOK FOR

The viewpoint turns, but foreground objects do not show lateral translation or parallax.

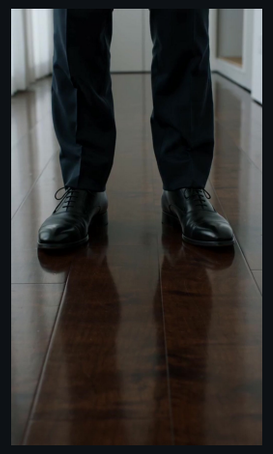
TRY THIS PROMPT

Pan: Follow a cyclist traveling across a long wall. The camera rotates left or right from a fixed physical position. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

02 / ROTATION

Tilt

Aim upward or downward without moving the camera



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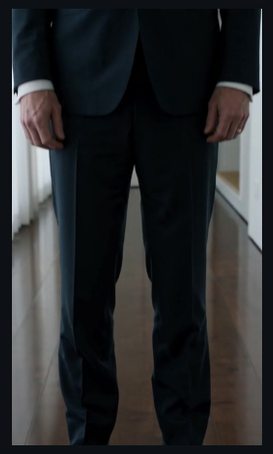


MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera rotates upward or downward while its position and height remain fixed.

LOOK FOR

Vertical framing changes without the perspective shift of raising or lowering the whole camera.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Tilt: Begin on muddy boots and tilt up to reveal the person. The camera rotates upward or downward while its position and height remain fixed. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

03 / ROTATION

Roll

Rotate the horizon around the lens axis

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera rotates around the lens axis, changing the horizon angle.

LOOK FOR

The entire horizon rotates while the lens position remains roughly fixed.

TRY THIS PROMPT

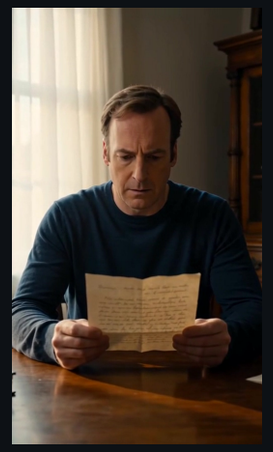
Roll: A dizzy character grips a kitchen counter as the horizon rolls. The camera rotates around the lens axis, changing the horizon angle. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

04 / TRANSLATION

Dolly In and Out

Move physically closer to or farther from the subject

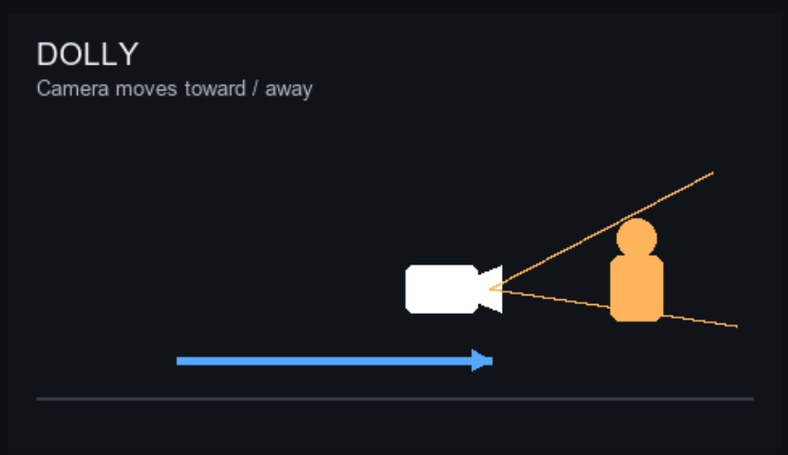
EARLY



MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera physically travels toward or away from the subject on the viewing axis.

LOOK FOR

Subject size and spatial perspective change together; this is physical movement, not a zoom.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Dolly In and Out: Push toward a person reading a letter, then retreat. The camera physically travels toward or away from the subject on the viewing axis. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

05 / COMPOUND MOVEMENT

Dolly + Tilt Up

Move forward while progressively aiming upward

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera travels forward while the lens simultaneously rotates upward.

LOOK FOR

Floor parallax proves the dolly while the framing climbs independently from the subject’s feet to face.

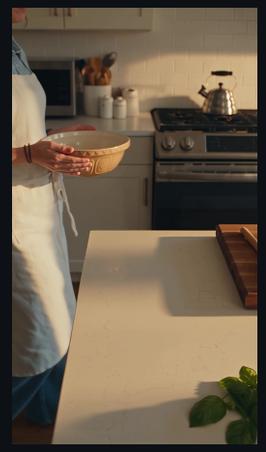
TRY THIS PROMPT

Dolly + Tilt Up: Push toward a motionless person on a stair landing while tilting from their shoes to their face. The camera travels forward while the lens simultaneously rotates upward. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

06 / TRANSLATION

Truck Right

Move sideways right without turning the camera

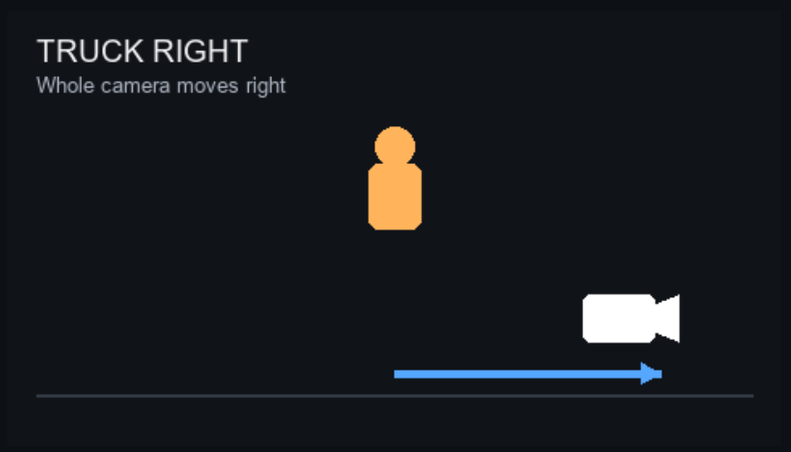


EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The whole camera moves sideways to the right on a path parallel to the subject plane.

LOOK FOR

Foreground and background slide at different rates, producing lateral parallax without rotation.

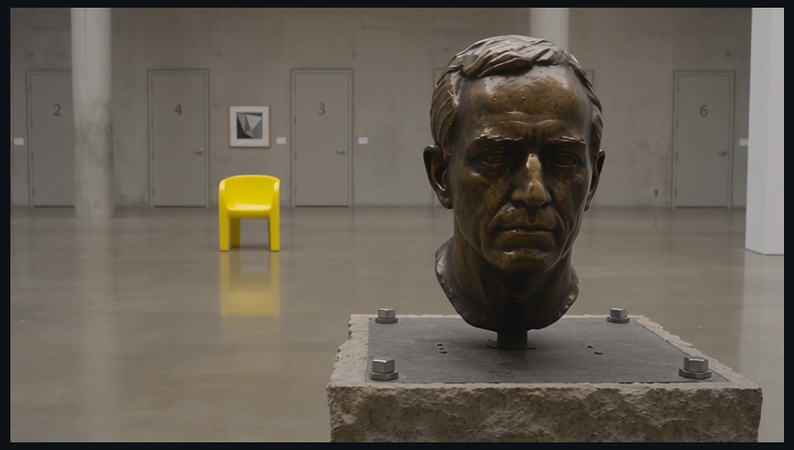
TRY THIS PROMPT

Truck Right: Move right past a stationary person beside a long bookshelf. The whole camera moves sideways to the right on a path parallel to the subject plane. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

07 / TRANSLATION

Truck Left

Move sideways left without turning the camera



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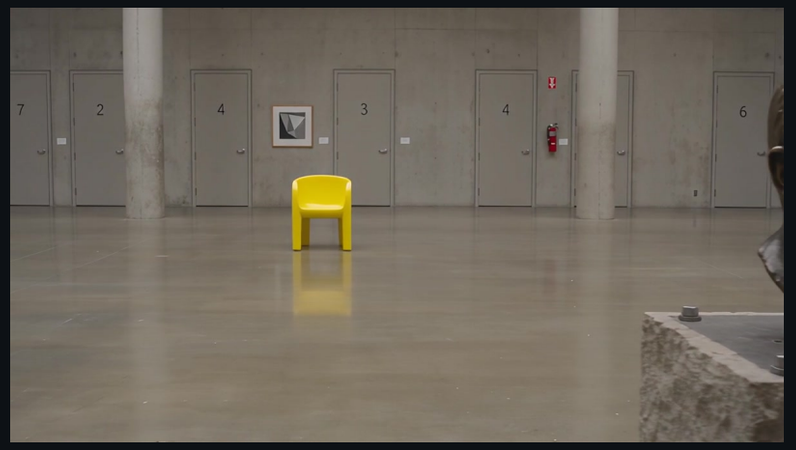
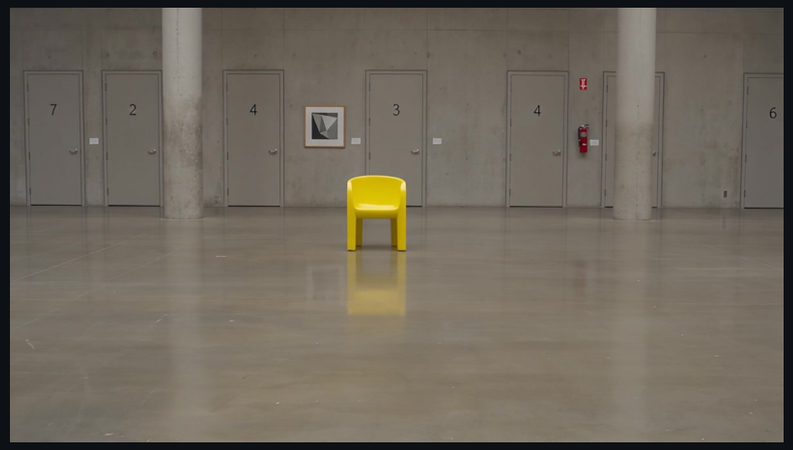


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The whole camera translates sideways to camera-left while its lens direction remains fixed.

LOOK FOR

The nearest column sweeps right fastest, the statue shifts more slowly, and the distant architecture moves least.

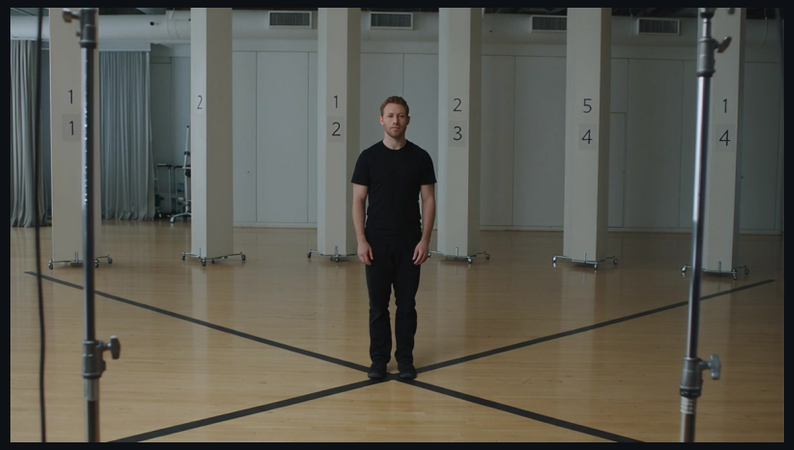
TRY THIS PROMPT

Truck Left: Truck left across a rigid courtyard with a nearby column and a distant statue. The whole camera translates sideways to camera-left while its lens direction remains fixed. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

08 / COMPOUND MOVEMENT

Truck + Pan

Move sideways while turning to hold the subject

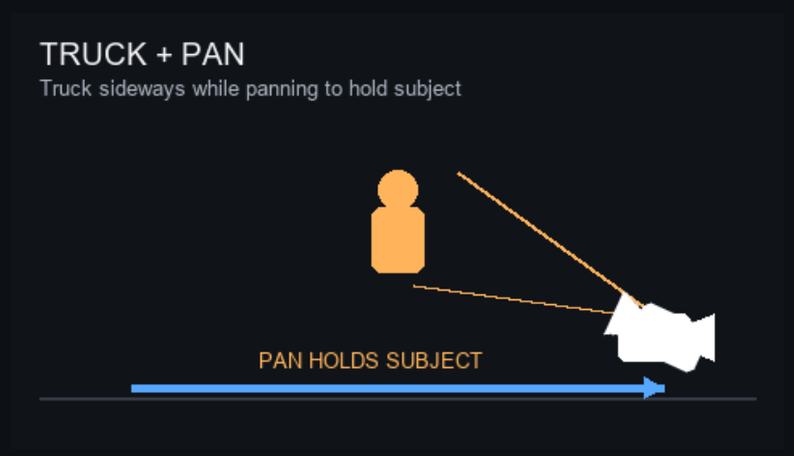


EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera travels sideways while panning in the opposite direction to preserve the subject’s framing.

LOOK FOR

The person remains near center while foreground stands and background columns shift through strong parallax.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Truck + Pan: Move sideways across a rehearsal studio while keeping a motionless performer centered. The camera travels sideways while panning in the opposite direction to preserve the subject’s framing. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

09 / TRANSLATION

Slider Right

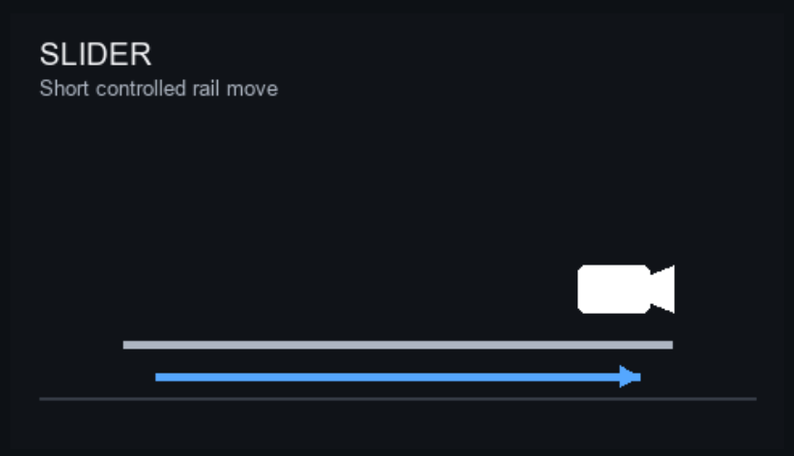
Make a short, precise sideways reveal

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

A short straight lateral move creates a controlled reveal through near-to-far parallax.

LOOK FOR

The nearest object crosses the frame fastest, revealing a farther object while the background moves least.

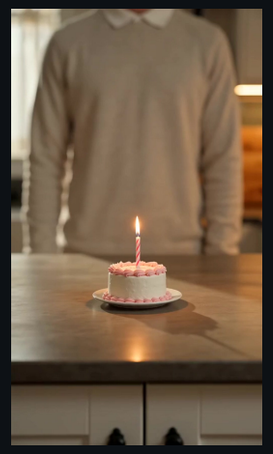
TRY THIS PROMPT

Slider Right: Align a near vase over a distant teapot, then slide right to separate and reveal them. A short straight lateral move creates a controlled reveal through near-to-far parallax. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

10 / TRANSLATION

Pedestal

Raise the camera vertically without tilting



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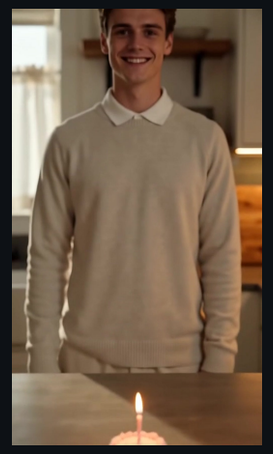
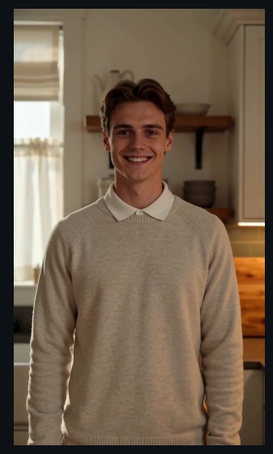
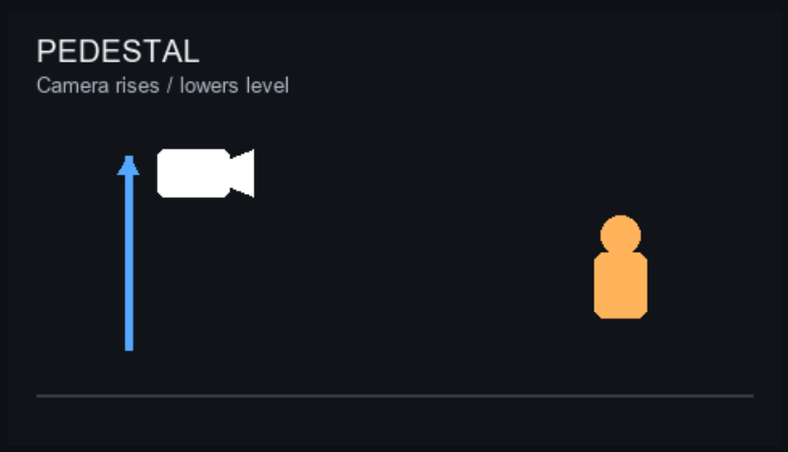


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera moves vertically without tilting the lens.

LOOK FOR

Camera height changes while the horizon and viewing angle remain level.

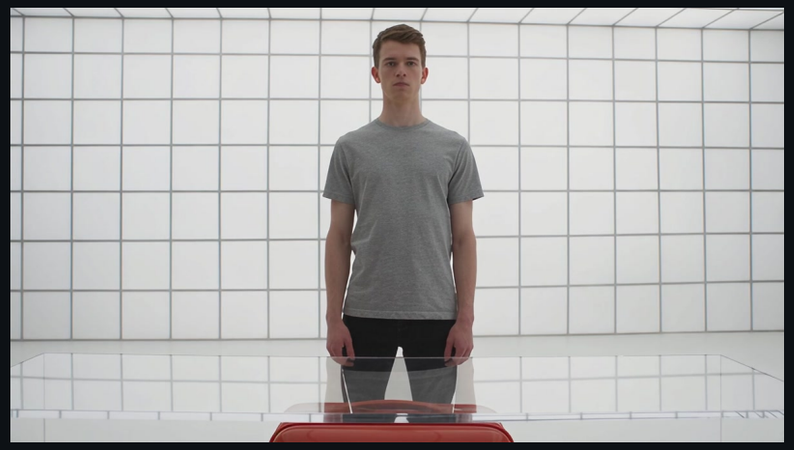
TRY THIS PROMPT

Pedestal: Rise above a desk to reveal the person hiding behind it. The camera moves vertically without tilting the lens. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

11 / TRANSLATION

Pedestal Down

Lower the camera vertically without tilting

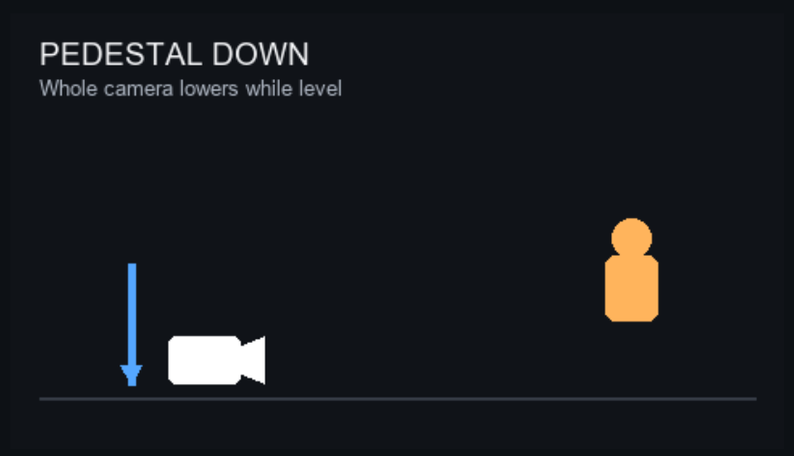


EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The entire camera descends vertically while the lens pitch remains unchanged.

LOOK FOR

Horizontal grid lines stay level as the table and suitcase rise through the composition due to the lower viewpoint.

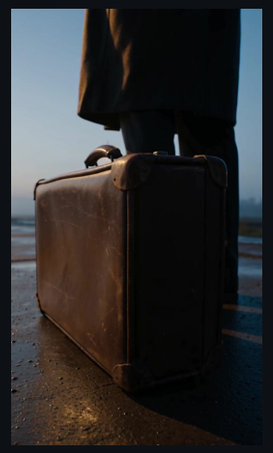
TRY THIS PROMPT

Pedestal Down: Lower from eye height to knee height in front of a person, glass table, and suitcase. The entire camera descends vertically while the lens pitch remains unchanged. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

12 / RIG & AERIAL

Boom / Crane

Sweep through height and distance on a long arm



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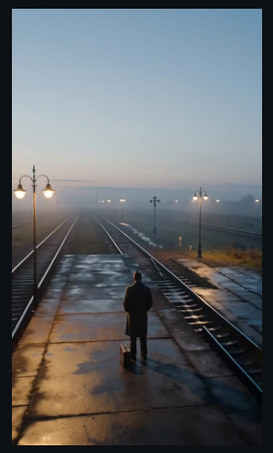
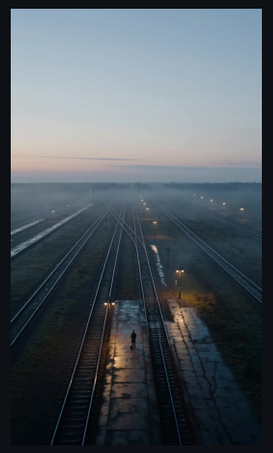


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera rises, falls, advances, or retreats through a large arc on a crane or boom.

LOOK FOR

A broad change in both height and position reveals geography and scale.

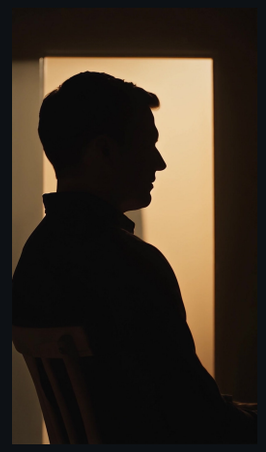
TRY THIS PROMPT

Boom / Crane: Start close to a suitcase and sweep upward into a wide station view. The camera rises, falls, advances, or retreats through a large arc on a crane or boom. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

13 / ARC & ORBIT

Arc

Curve partway around a subject



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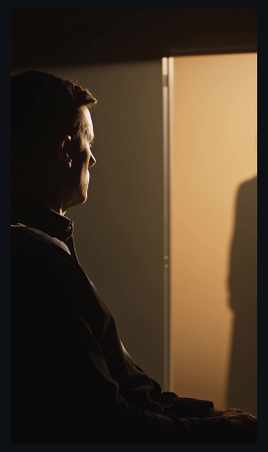

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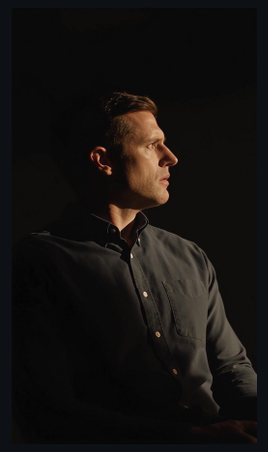

LATE

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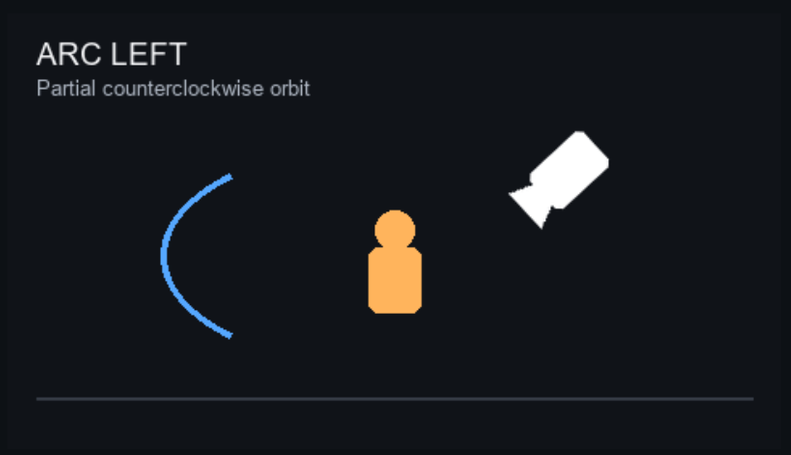


THE MOVE

The camera moves through part of a circle around the subject.

LOOK FOR

The subject angle and background relationship change, but the move stops before a full circle.

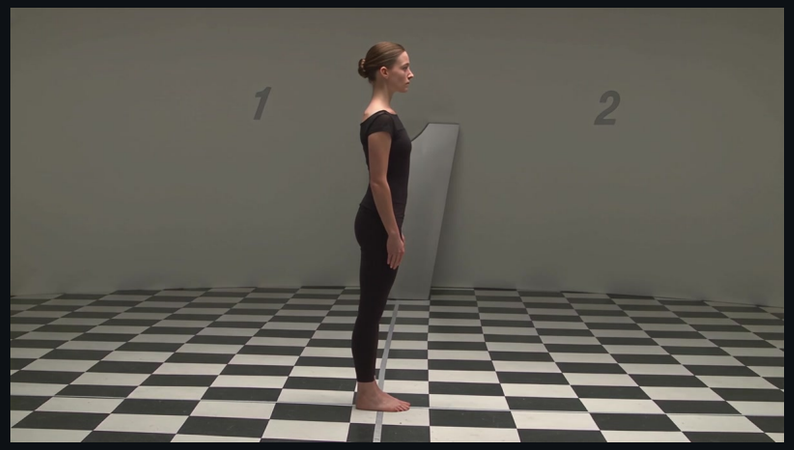
TRY THIS PROMPT

Arc: Arc from a person’s profile to their frontal reaction. The camera moves through part of a circle around the subject. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

14 / ARC & ORBIT

Arc Right

Curve right around the subject to a new angle



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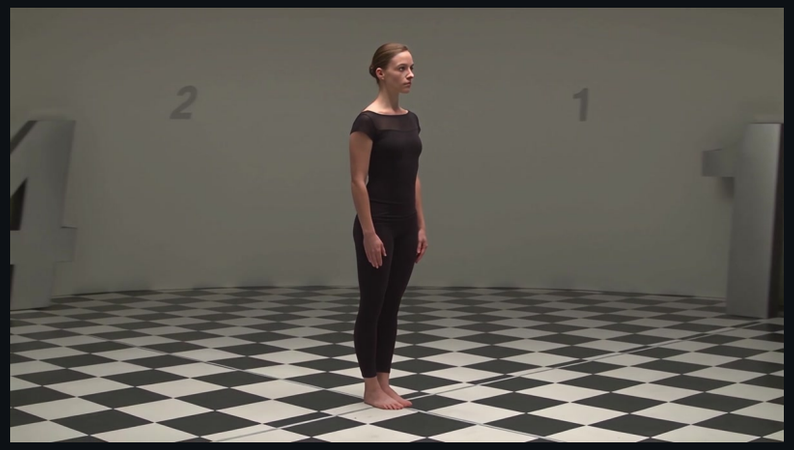

MIDDLE

LATE

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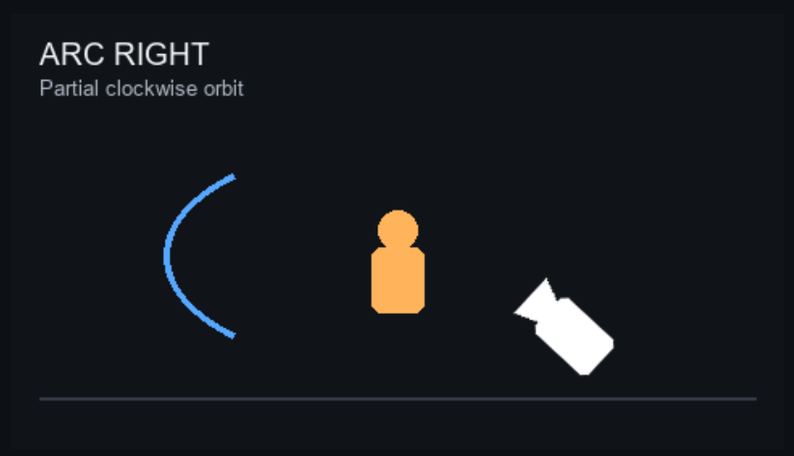


THE MOVE

The camera travels through a rightward portion of a circle around a stationary subject.

LOOK FOR

The checkerboard floor and numbered wall markers rotate in perspective while the subject remains fixed on the center point.

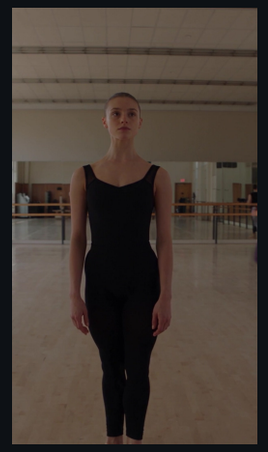
TRY THIS PROMPT

Arc Right: Arc 90 degrees from a person’s profile to a frontal view in a marked rehearsal room. The camera travels through a rightward portion of a circle around a stationary subject. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

15 / ARC & ORBIT

Orbit

Circle completely around a centered subject



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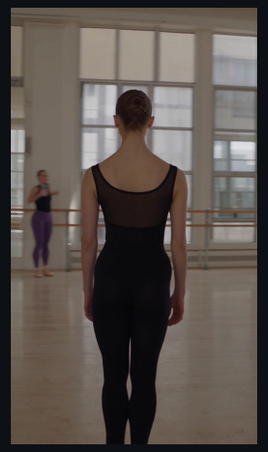
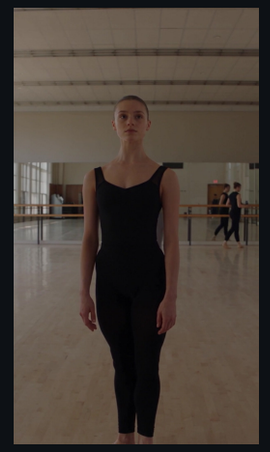


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera circles fully around a subject while maintaining attention toward the center.

LOOK FOR

A complete circular progression returns to the original camera axis.

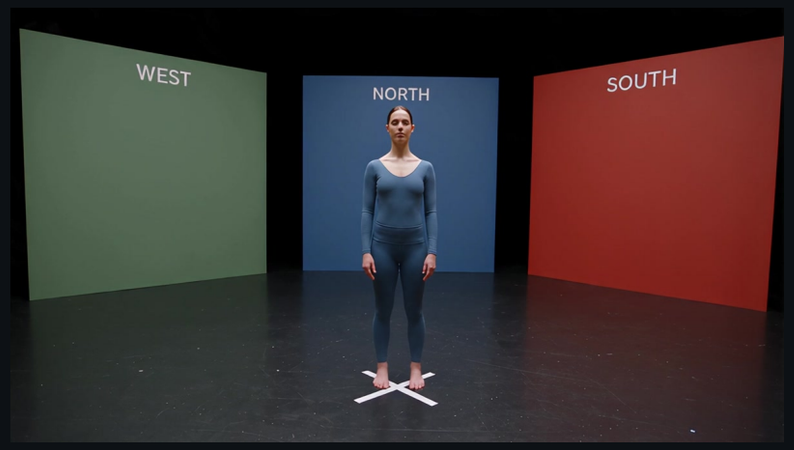
TRY THIS PROMPT

Orbit: Circle a motionless person standing at the center of a rehearsal room. The camera circles fully around a subject while maintaining attention toward the center. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

16 / ARC & ORBIT

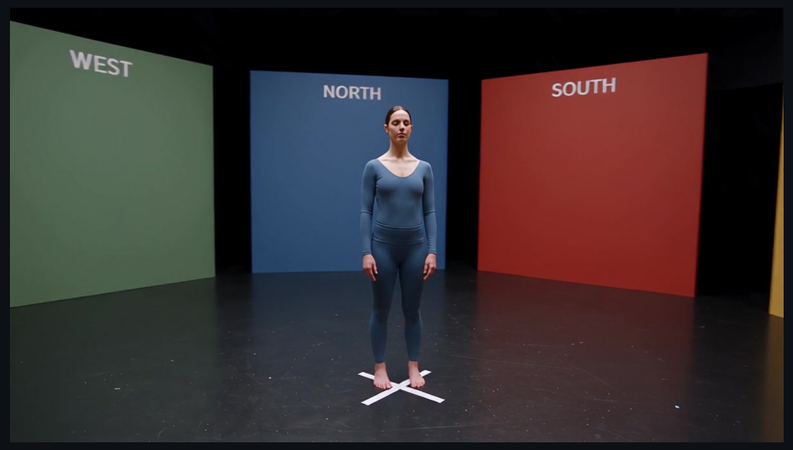
Orbit Left

Circle the subject counterclockwise



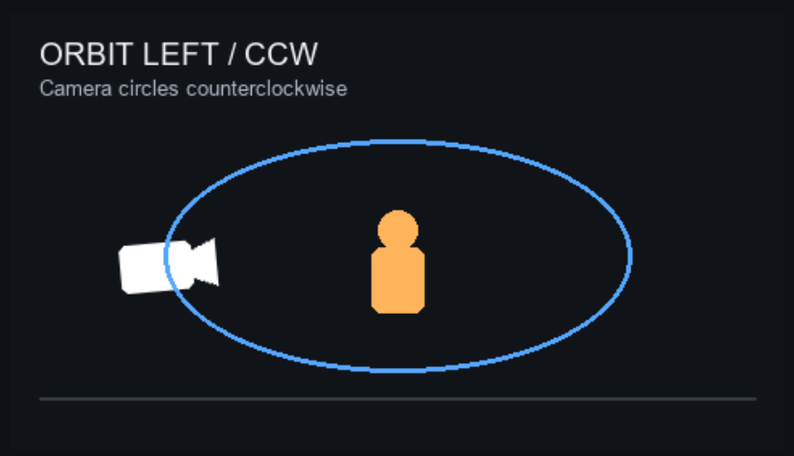
EARLY

MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera completes one counterclockwise circle around a stationary subject and returns to its starting axis.

LOOK FOR

Front, profile, back, opposite profile, and the restored front view all appear in order against changing colored walls.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Orbit Left: Orbit counterclockwise around a person standing on a center mark in a four-color room. The camera completes one counterclockwise circle around a stationary subject and returns to its starting axis. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

17 / ARC & ORBIT

Orbit Right

Circle the subject clockwise

EARLY MIDDLE LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera completes one clockwise circle around a stationary subject and returns to its starting axis.

LOOK FOR

The subject’s body stays fixed while the camera reveals every side and the background completes a full geographic cycle.

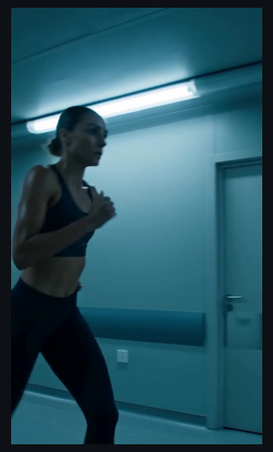
TRY THIS PROMPT

Orbit Right: Orbit clockwise around a person standing on a center mark in a four-color room. The camera completes one clockwise circle around a stationary subject and returns to its starting axis. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

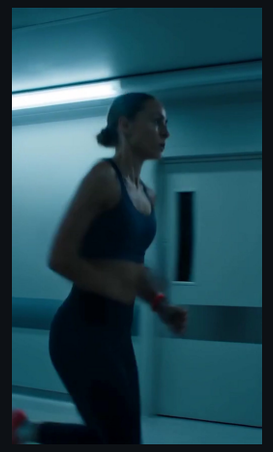
18 / MOVING COVERAGE

Side Tracking Right

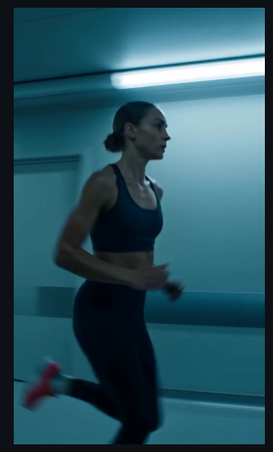
Travel beside a subject moving to the right



EARLY

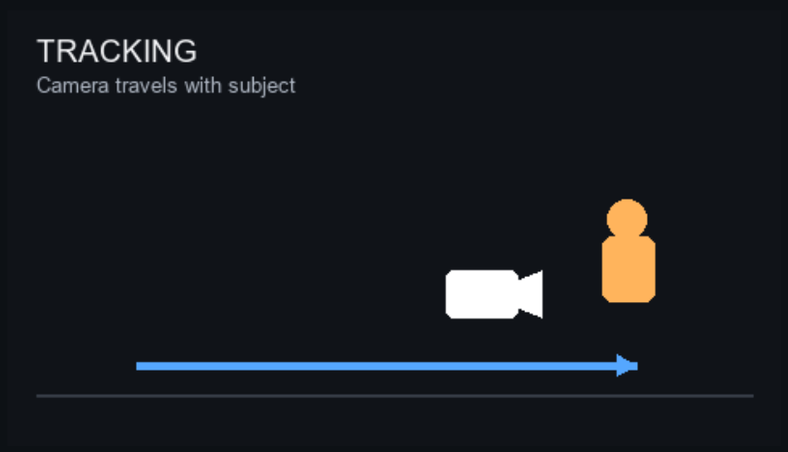


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera and a moving subject travel together toward camera-right on parallel paths while maintaining their relative distance.

LOOK FOR

The runner advances physically to the right, remains at stable scale and screen position, and the environment streams left with coherent parallax.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Side Tracking Right: Track beside a runner moving right through a long hallway. The camera and a moving subject travel together toward camera-right on parallel paths while maintaining their relative distance. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

19 / MOVING COVERAGE

Side Tracking Left

Travel beside a subject moving to the left

EARLY

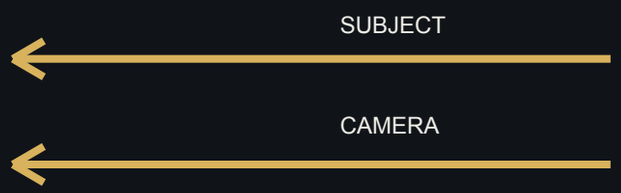
MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

SIDE TRACKING LEFT

Camera + subject match speed



THE MOVE

The camera travels beside a moving subject toward camera-left, matching their speed along a parallel path.

LOOK FOR

After the opening hold, the runner moves left while remaining at similar size; columns and railings travel right behind him. This is lateral tracking, not a fixed-position pan.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Side Tracking Left: Track beside a runner moving left through a parking garage. The camera travels beside a moving subject toward camera-left, matching their speed along a parallel path. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

20 / MOVING COVERAGE

Leading Shot

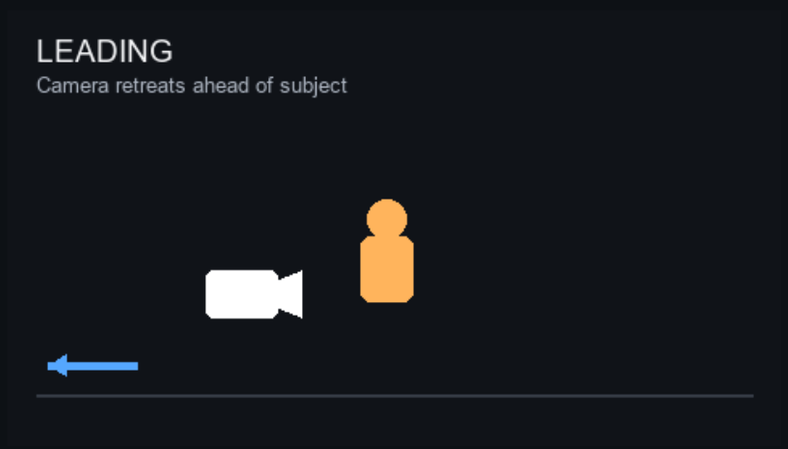
Move backward ahead of an approaching subject

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera moves backward in front of a moving subject while facing them.

LOOK FOR

Subject size remains stable as the camera retreats along their path.

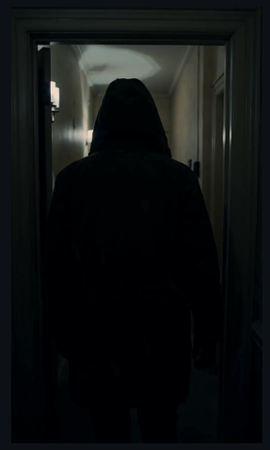
TRY THIS PROMPT

Leading Shot: Walk backward ahead of a person delivering urgent information. The camera moves backward in front of a moving subject while facing them. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

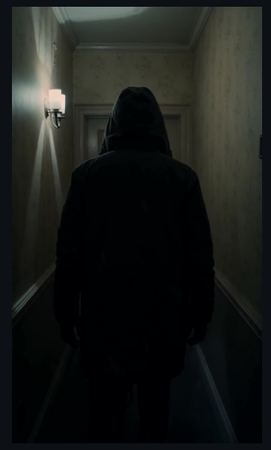
21 / MOVING COVERAGE

Following Shot

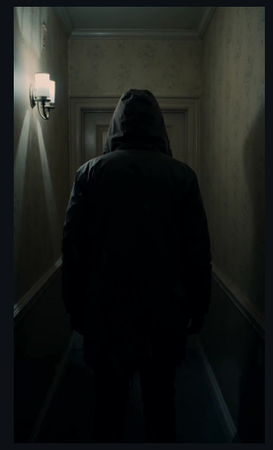
Travel behind a subject along their route



EARLY

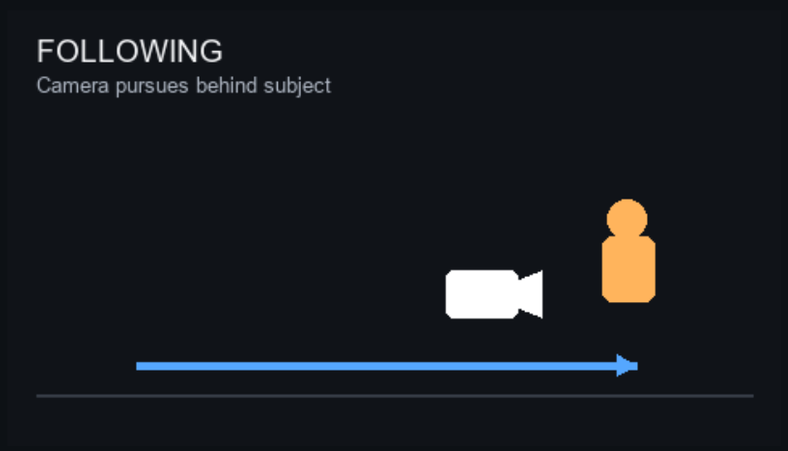


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera follows behind a moving subject through space.

LOOK FOR

The camera maintains a rear vantage and follows the subject’s route.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Following Shot: Follow someone entering and exploring an unfamiliar building. The camera follows behind a moving subject through space. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

22 / MOVING COVERAGE

Walk-and-Talk

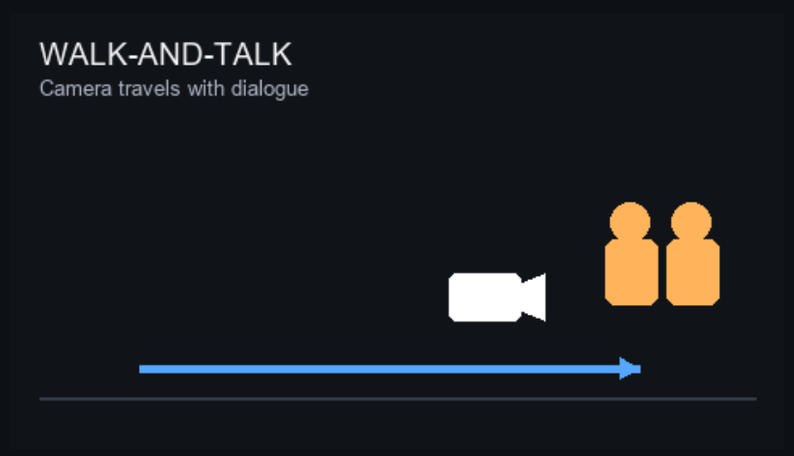
Lead two walking speakers in a stable two-shot

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera retreats ahead of two walking speakers while maintaining a stable conversational two-shot.

LOOK FOR

Both people keep consistent size and headroom as repeating doors and lights prove forward progression.

TRY THIS PROMPT

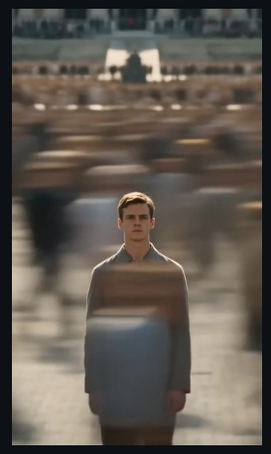
Walk-and-Talk: Lead two coworkers down an office corridor while they speak to each other. The camera retreats ahead of two walking speakers while maintaining a stable conversational two-shot. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

23 / LENS & COMPOUND

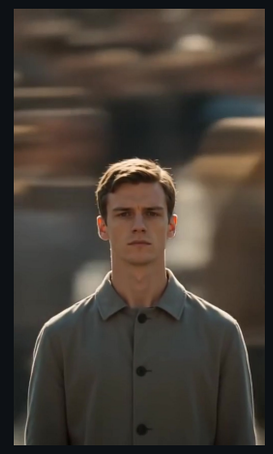
Zoom

Change magnification without moving the camera

EARLY

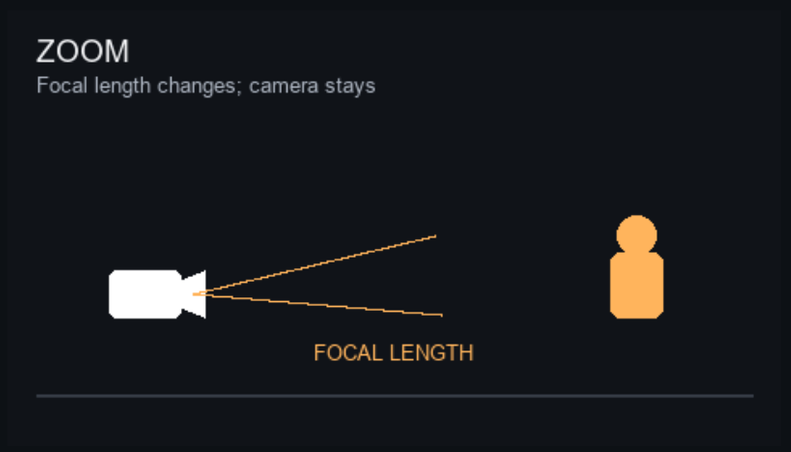


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The lens changes focal length while the camera position stays fixed.

LOOK FOR

The framing magnifies and compresses without the parallax of physical camera travel.

TRY THIS PROMPT

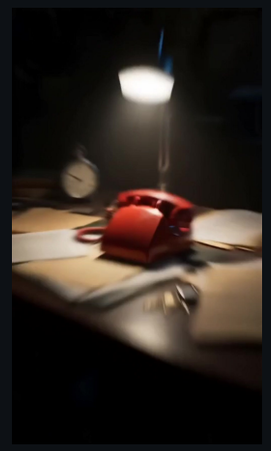
Zoom: Zoom from a wide crowd toward one still person. The lens changes focal length while the camera position stays fixed. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

24 / LENS & COMPOUND

Crash Zoom

Snap rapidly from wide to tight framing

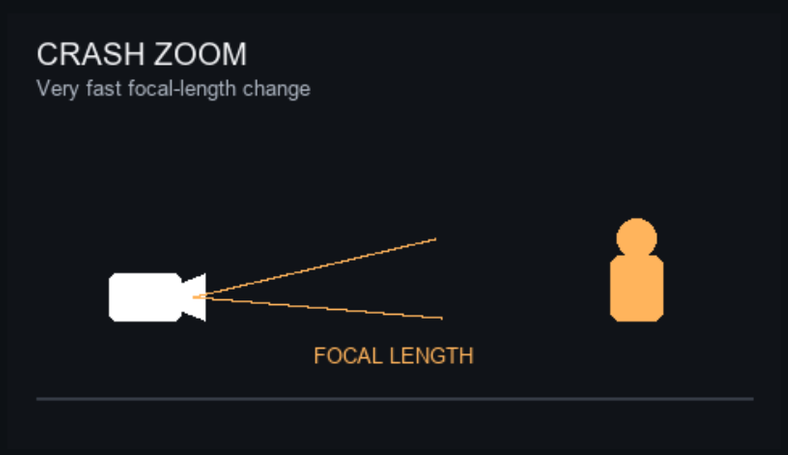
EARLY



MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

An intentionally abrupt, fast zoom lands on an important detail.

LOOK FOR

A stable wide frame, brief rapid lens move, and clean tight landing.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Crash Zoom: Crash from a wide detective desk to a ringing red telephone. An intentionally abrupt, fast zoom lands on an important detail. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

25 / ROTATION

Whip Pan

Turn rapidly between compositions with motion blur

EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

An extremely fast pan connects two stable compositions with motion blur.

LOOK FOR

The start and end frames settle sharply; blur belongs mainly to the transition.

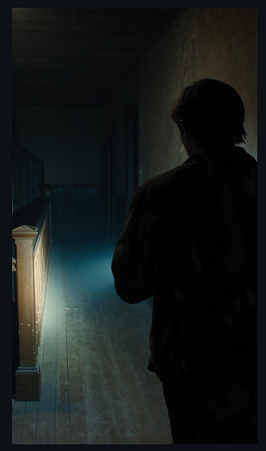
TRY THIS PROMPT

Whip Pan: Whip from one person’s reaction to the source of a noise. An extremely fast pan connects two stable compositions with motion blur. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

26 / OPERATING STYLE

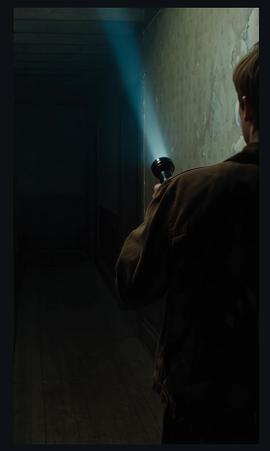
Handheld

Use controlled human sway and reactive reframing



EARLY

MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The operator physically holds the camera, leaving controlled human micro-movement.

LOOK FOR

Small reactive reframing and breathing sway feel organic rather than mechanically smooth.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Handheld: Follow a nervous person searching a dark house with a flashlight. The operator physically holds the camera, leaving controlled human micro-movement. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

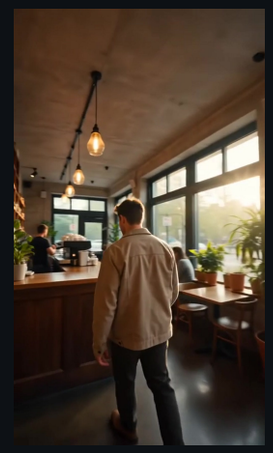
27 / OPERATING STYLE

Steadicam / Gimbal

Glide smoothly through a complex moving path

EARLY

MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

A stabilized camera moves freely through complex three-dimensional paths.

LOOK FOR

The shot glides through thresholds and turns without track-bound geometry or handheld shake.

TRY THIS PROMPT

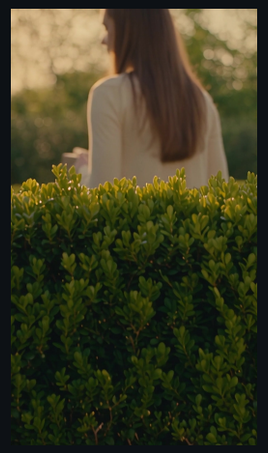
Steadicam / Gimbal: Follow someone from the sidewalk through a café to the counter. A stabilized camera moves freely through complex three-dimensional paths. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

28 / RIG & AERIAL

Jib

Make a compact crane-like rise or descent

EARLY



MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

A short arm lifts or lowers the camera through a compact arc.

LOOK FOR

The camera clears an obstruction while gaining height and a small amount of forward travel.

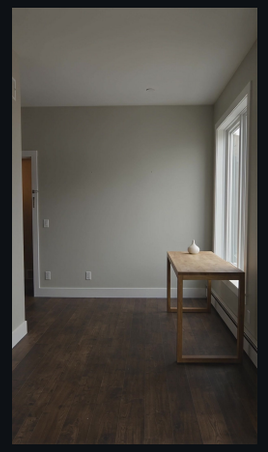
TRY THIS PROMPT

Jib: Rise over a hedge to reveal a waiting person. A short arm lifts or lowers the camera through a compact arc. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

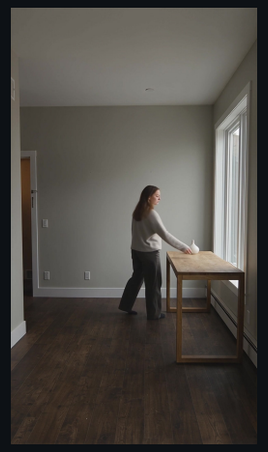
29 / OPERATING STYLE

Static / Locked-Off

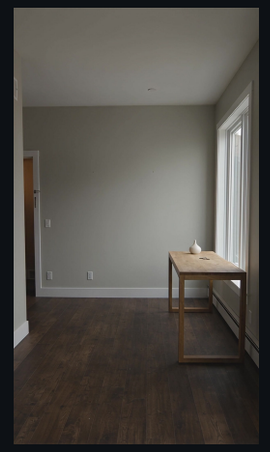
Hold a fixed frame while action moves within it



EARLY

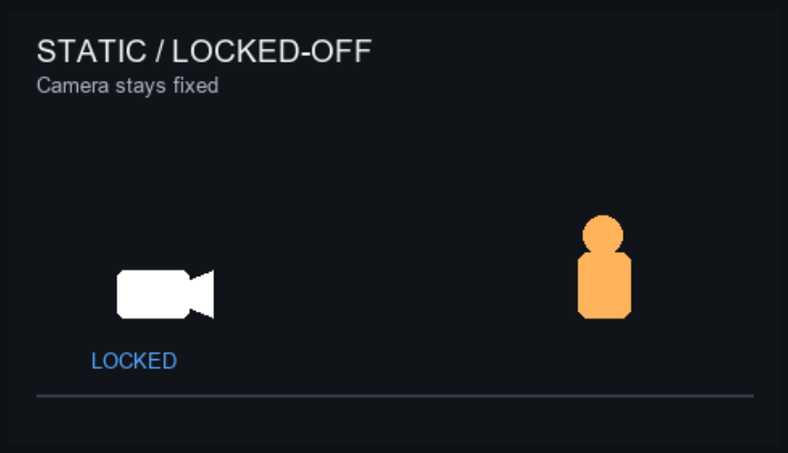


MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera remains completely fixed while action changes inside the frame.

LOOK FOR

Every compositional change comes from the subject; the camera does not drift or reframe.

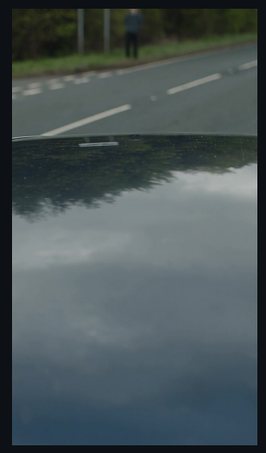
TRY THIS PROMPT

Static / Locked-Off: Let a character enter, cross, place a key, and leave a locked composition. The camera remains completely fixed while action changes inside the frame. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

30 / TRANSLATION

Rise Reveal

Rise vertically to uncover a hidden subject

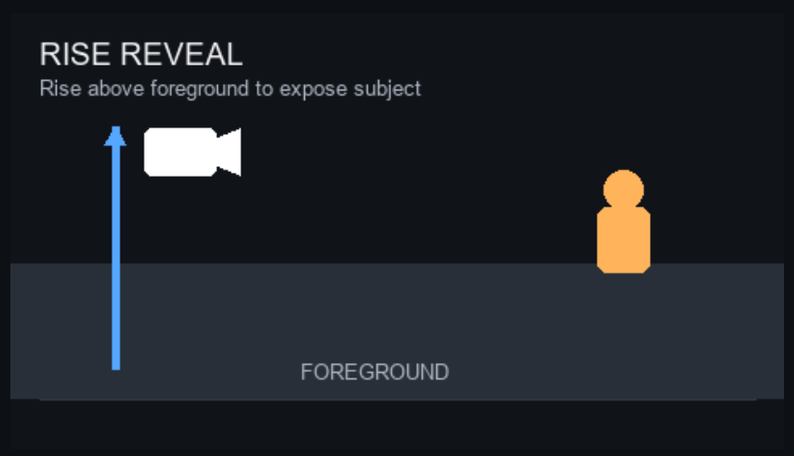


EARLY

MIDDLE

LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.



THE MOVE

The camera rises behind foreground occlusion until a hidden subject or view appears.

LOOK FOR

The reveal is caused by changing camera height, not by tilting over the obstruction.

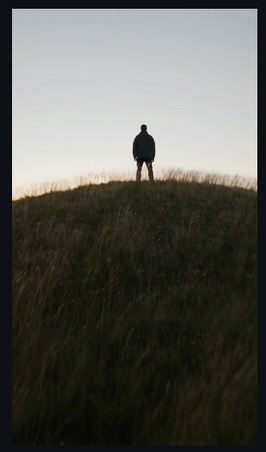
TRY THIS PROMPT

Rise Reveal: Rise above a parked car to reveal someone waiting across the road. The camera rises behind foreground occlusion until a hidden subject or view appears. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

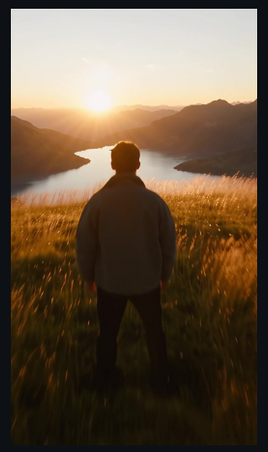
31 / RIG & AERIAL

Fly-Over

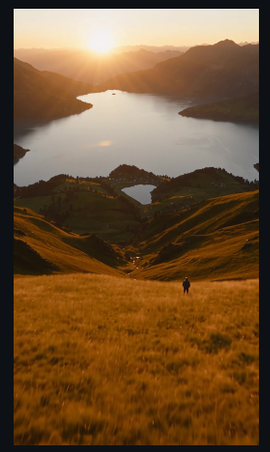
Travel forward above a subject and continue beyond



EARLY



MIDDLE



LATE

Demo frames sampled at 8%, 50% and 90% of the clip. AI-generated illustration.

THE MOVE

The camera approaches, passes above a subject, and continues forward to reveal what lies beyond.

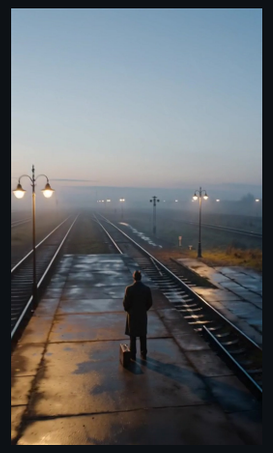
LOOK FOR

A continuous forward path clears the subject and protects a stable horizon.

TRY THIS PROMPT

Fly-Over: Fly over a person on a hill and continue into a valley reveal. The camera approaches, passes above a subject, and continues forward to reveal what lies beyond. One continuous shot; preserve subject identity and coherent scene geometry.

Turn the shot you imagine into a prompt you can use.



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This guide was created from the interactive Camera Movement Studio in AI Cinema Studio. Explore Cinema Studio to watch the movements and build your shot direction.