

Making a Film

An amateur film does not have to cost anything as long as you have a good idea, a video camera and an editing tool. Give it a try – and have fun!

1 Planning a Film

- Form a group of four or five. Sit down around a table. You all need a pen and a notepad. Start brainstorming ideas of what kind of story you would like to tell. Continue brainstorming until the story is ready. Write a synopsis (a short summary) of the story. Speak English all the time!
- Your first couple of films should not be longer than 1–7 minutes long.
- Decide on locations (where you will shoot the sequences).
- Divide the roles between you and choose one or two photographers. Do you need more actors?
- Make a script. A script is a detailed written version of the film. It should contain a description of the action, as well as all the lines (what the actors are saying).



SCRIPT

The Enchanted Bicycle

ROBERT (anxious): Hey, look at that bicycle! It's coming down towards us, but there's no one on it!

LISA (even more anxious): Oh, my God! Maybe it's the Enchanted Bicycle!

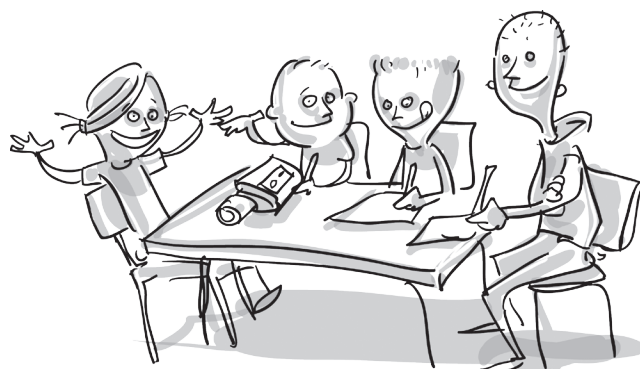
ROBERT: Yeah, there's a legend about an evil bicycle –

LISA: – that runs over school kids who are late for school. Run!

PAUL (shouting): Robert! Lisa! Watch out! Some jerk threw me off my bike and pushed it down the slope!

- Learn all your lines by heart. Make sure the language is correct and that you sound convincing. You want to impress your viewers and your English teacher, right?
- Rehearse several times before you start filming. If you know your lines well, it is easier to act naturally.

Plan which scenes you should shoot in which order and at what locations. Make sure you shoot all the scenes that require the same location. Example: Shoot scene one, two and four in the school grounds. Scene one. Petter and Marte are having a quarrel. Location: The school grounds.



Scene two. Per (the maths teacher) calms them down.

Location: The school grounds.

Scene three. Anne and Marie are chatting about their future.

Location: Anne's garden.

Scene four. Lasse asks Marie if she wants to go to the cinema with him.

Location: The school grounds.

2 Shooting

- Hold the camera steady. If possible, use a tripod.
- Use earphones to make sure the audio is working. An external microphone is often better than built-in microphones. The dialogues must be heard loud and clear.
- When filming outdoors, make sure that the sun is not in front of you.
- Do not zoom in and out while filming. It can make the audience feel dizzy.
- Shoot from different angles.
- Stop filming every time you move the camera to a new position.
- If something goes wrong, shoot the sequence again.
- Bring an extra battery or two.



3 Editing

To get good results, you must edit the raw film. The sequences must be arranged in the correct order. One of you should be the chief editor, but the whole film crew should take part in the editing. Everybody should have a say about how the film should be edited. You will probably have a good laugh together, too! Think about the following before you start editing:

- Should you add music to some of the sequences?
- Do you need any special effects or transitions?
Using a few effects can be impressive, but do not overdo it.
- Are any of the sequences very bad? Go out and shoot them again.
- Remember to add a title at the beginning of the film, as well as rolling titles and credits at the end.

