

POST 100 - Types of Cuts

Hard Cut

A standard cut, or hard cut, means simply cutting from clip A to clip B. Usually, hard cuts are used within a scene, and not to transition between scenes.



Jump Cut

A jump cut cuts from a frame in a clip to a later frame in the same clip—or to a clip that looks very similar.



L-Cut and J-Cut

A J-cut occurs when the audio from the next clip is heard before the video. An L-cut is when the video switches before the audio. The names of these cuts come from the shapes they make on the cutting timeline:

J-cut means you hear the audio before you see the video that matches with that audio. It doesn't mean you're staring at a black screen. It just means you're looking at clip A while hearing the audio from clip B.

L-cut means you're still hearing the audio from a shot but you're seeing a new shot. The viewer is looking at clip B while still hearing audio from clip A.

Match Cut on Action (or Cutting on Action)

When action spreads across two or more clips, the editor makes a cut in the middle of that action. The goal of this cut is to be invisible.

