

*Filmmaking*



# Creating a shooting schedule

A comprehensive step-by-step guidance to create your own first schedule

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# Introduction

You have a script on hand that you want to direct or produce. Well done! Now you need a production schedule to assess the various elements of your film and evaluate the time needed to shoot it. Once you have a schedule in place, you can use it to build a budget and determine your financing strategy.

You don't want to hire an Assistant Director yet to create a full breakdown and schedule from your script. That costs money. Rather, you want to do it yourself. This guide is designed for you. Even with little production experience, it will give you a comprehensive step-by-step guidance to create a solid first shooting schedule and measure the feasibility of your project.

Whether it's a short film, a TV drama or a feature film, you must know how many days are required to shoot and its level of complexity,

all of which have a direct impact on the overall budget. Therefore, having a proper schedule is the first step to any production

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## Breakdown & schedule

The breakdown of your script is a key step in the process of creating a shooting schedule. Consider the schedule as a road map, outlining the scenes of your script in the order in which they will be shot.



Scenes are grouped out of sequence to optimise production time and budget.

The schedule allows you to estimate how many days are necessary to make the film and to establish an initial budget to evaluate the cost

of your film in order to plan your film's financing strategy.

To create a schedule, you first need to breakdown the script in order to identify the key components of each scene that have an impact in its shooting duration. This includes location, cast and extras, stunts, special effects (i.e., rain), animals, etc.

Once you have done a full breakdown of all the scenes in your script, you can then organise each by location, cast, time of day to optimise your shoot.

This initial schedule may help you discover that the film is more complicated to shoot than first anticipated. Too many sets, characters or complex scenes will result in too many days of; hence a more expensive film.

The schedule will prove to be a very useful tool if you need to modify your script due to budget constraints.