

Module 4.4 – Shooting Sequences & Avoiding Common Mistakes

Record Once. Edit Easily.

A good video is rarely one perfect shot.
It's a **sequence of simple shots** that work together.

1. What Is a Shooting Sequence?

A sequence is **3–6 related shots** that show one action or idea from different angles.

Example:

👉 *Making coffee*

- Wide shot of the space
- Medium shot of the action
- Close-up of detail
- Optional reaction or movement shot

This gives you **options in editing** and avoids jump cuts.

2. The Basic 5-Shot Formula (Beginner-Friendly)

Use this whenever you're unsure:

1. **Wide shot** – shows the context
2. **Medium shot** – shows the action
3. **Close-up** – shows detail
4. **Alternative angle** – side or over-the-shoulder
5. **Movement shot** – small pan, tilt, or push-in

You don't need all five every time — **3 is enough**.

3. Talking Head + B-Roll Combo

If you're speaking to camera:

- Record your full talking-head clip first
- Then record **B-roll** to place over it

B-roll ideas:

- Hands working
- Screen recording
- Environment shots
- Reaction shots
- Close-ups of objects

👉 This hides cuts and makes videos feel smooth.

4. Record With Editing in Mind

Before recording, ask:

- Where might I cut?
- What extra shots could cover edits?
- Do I need a safety shot?

Always record a few extra seconds at the start and end of each clip.

5. Common Shooting Mistakes (And How to Avoid Them)

✗ Only one long clip

- ✓ Break actions into multiple short clips
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✗ Cutting mid-movement

- ✓ Start recording before action begins
 - ✓ End recording after action finishes
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✗ No close-ups

- ✓ Always grab at least one detail shot
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✗ Forgetting background consistency

- ✓ Check lighting, framing, and position between shots
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✗ Relying on zoom instead of movement

- ✓ Step closer or change angle instead
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6. Simple Shooting Checklist (Use Every Time)

Before you stop recording, check:

- ☐ Wide shot captured
- ☐ Medium shot captured
- ☐ Close-up captured
- ☐ At least one alternative angle
- ☐ Extra seconds before and after clips

If yes → you're ready to edit.

7. Mini Practice Challenge

Choose one simple action (2–5 minutes total):

Examples:

- Opening a laptop
- Preparing coffee or tea
- Setting up your desk
- Writing notes

Film:

- 1 wide shot
- 1 medium shot
- 1 close-up
- 1 optional movement shot

👉 Edit them into a **10–20 second sequence**.

Key Reminder

Editing becomes easy
when shooting is intentional.

You don't need more gear.
You need **more options**.