

The 180-Degree Rule

Communications & Media

Keep the camera on one side of the line so screen direction stays consistent.

Draw an imaginary line between subjects and shoot from one side of it for the whole scene.

Stay one side of the line of action

Two people talking

They face

A looks right, B left

Car travelling

Same screen dir

Keep it moving one way

Must cross

Or show the move

Cut on a neutral shot

THE COMMON MISTAKE

✗ **Crossing the line for a better background**

✓ **Finding the shot on the correct side**

Crossing flips screen direction, so two people appear to face the same way and the audience loses the geography of the scene.

Legal ways across: a neutral head-on shot, a cutaway, or a visible camera move that takes the audience over the line with it.