

Lighting media codes

The way that **lighting** is used in video products is an important **media code**

There are different ways to light a scene that will contribute to the **mood** and **emotions** the audience experiences

In particular, you need to know about:

- lighting intensity/levels
- lighting position

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Lighting levels or intensity help to create the mood

High intensity lighting – very bright, leaving few shadows, creating a bright, light and airy atmosphere. Commonly used in comedies, children's movies, musicals, and romantic comedies. Technically known as **High Key lighting**

Low intensity lighting – using low light levels, sometimes just illuminating part of a scene. Creates lots of shadows, creating a dark, serious atmosphere create suspense or show that a scene includes sadness, curiosity, fear, or suspense. Commonly used in crime dramas, thrillers, and horror. Technically known as **Low Key lighting**

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Lighting position can impact the type of mood that is created

Underlighting – light from below a subject, perhaps focussing on their face. This can create a spooky feel

High level lighting – using light from high above the subject. Creates few shadows and places the scene in full light

The position of the sun and any other ambient (normal) lighting is important to consider when filming. Shooting in to the sun means you won't see any of the detail or may require more artificial lighting to provide the detail

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The standard way to light a scene is **three point lighting**

Backlight – behind the actor to make them stand out and to add depth

Fill light – often bounced off of a light surface. Softens shadows and can be used to light actors faces directly

Key light – the strongest lighting. Set to one side and/or behind the camera to illuminate the scene

