Also known as a hard cut, this is the basic and most common cut. It just puts two clips together, connecting the last frame of one and the beginning frame of the next. This is a cut that pushes forward in time. It's normally done within the same frame or composition, and many times it's used within montages.

A cross dissolve can also signify time passing, or it can use its overlapping “layers” or dissolves to show multiple stories or scenes happening at once, but shot at different times.

Simply fade out one clip and fade in the other. Like many of the other techniques, this often implies time passing, like a night-to-day switch or someone falling asleep. This can be jarring if not used properly. Avoid using this cut for standard applications.

A montage uses quick cuts between scenes, usually underscored by music, to show the passing of time, allowing for rapid development in your storyline.

Don’t use cross dissolves for standard editing. There needs to be creative motivation behind the dissolve.

Cutting at the point of action is what our eyes and brains are naturally expecting. When someone kicks open a door, we expect a change in angle when the door is kicked, not after.

Cutaways are shots that take viewers away from the main characters or action. They give extra context to the scene, and can create more tension and foreshadowing.

Also known as parallel editing, a cross cut switches between two different scenes that are happening at the same time in different places.

A match cut provides context and continuity to push things in a new direction without disorienting the viewer. Use it to move between scenes or around a space, while keeping everything coherent.

You can also use a light leak or lens flare, or zoom in on a foreground object to fill the frame for your transition.

From quick-cut transitions to flash-bulb cuts and freeze frames, there are many ways to put together a story on any screen. Once you master the different edit types, you can create an editing style of your own that reflects your creative side. But first, you have to learn them...

Visit blog.pond5.com to see these techniques in action.