

Television News Vocabulary

Anchor - The newscaster who hosts the studio portion of the newscast. The anchor is the dominant voice in the presentation of the news to the audience. S/he must be proficient in writing, producing, and editing the news.

Break – place designated within broadcast programming during which commercials run.

B-Roll – video that is shot for a TV news story and used to visualize the script the reporter/anchor has written.

Bumpers – small teases (with or without audio/video) that come at the end of one newscast segment often previewing what is coming up in the rest of the newscast.

Lead-in – broadcast term for beginning part of story news anchor reads introducing the story and/or person reporting story.

Live shot/Live Report – A TV news story during which a news anchor or reporter is live at a remote location. Within this report can be included a SOT, VO/SOT or PKG.

Natural Sound - aka Nat Sound, Nat S-O-T, or Ambient Sound - Background voices, music, machinery, waterfalls, and other environmental sounds that are recorded on-scene and used to create a sound bed for a recorded or live report. Primarily used for setting a mood or providing atmosphere for a report.

Outcue – usually the last thing a reporter says in either a live or recorded news story (i.e. PKG) indicating the piece is ending. (Example: “FOR UPDATE NEWS, I’M BILL SMITH.”)

Outro – usually the “Goodbye” or end segment of a newscast often during which news/wx/sports anchors engage in “happy talk.”

Rundown -aka; Lineup - A chronological outline or order of stories or segments to be used in a newscast. This is the producer's blueprint for the newscast.

Running Time - Refers either to the estimated time or the actual time of a newscast. Producers/editors should always estimate the running time of the newscast based on the actual time of each recorded report and her or his best guess as to the time of each intro and each story to be read by the anchor.

Package (PKG) - A report from a correspondent that contains a sound bite inserted between the introduction and the epilogue (usually inserted after the reporter's second or third sentence). These need an in-studio lead for the anchor.

Sound bite (SOT) - edited slice of a newsmaker speaking. Similar to actuality in radio except the person can be seen. Often several SOT can be spliced together with the edits cover with video. These can be included in PKGs and VO/SOTs or can stand alone.

Stand-up – part of package with reporter on screen reading/presenting information.

Voiceover (VO) – A TV news story during which a news anchor or reporter reads a script live as video is played.

Voiceover-to-sound(VO/SOT) – A TV news story during which a news anchor or reporter reads a script live as video is played up to a place when a news maker video/audio sound bite is played. At the end of the SOT, the reporter or anchor resumes reading with or without additional video.

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