

## Prac Exercise 1: Basic Camera

Get into groups of at least 3 and do the exercises below.

The camera you are using today is the Sony HDR SR11/12 Handycam.

1. Take the camera as it is set up and look through it
2. Examine what images you can find in your immediate surroundings.
3. Take turns to play with the various kinds of shots you can take and stories you can make.
4. Take turns to examine the camera and practice the steps below.
5. Check over the camera and become familiar with its functions. Your tutor will explain these to you. Note in particular how to reformat and what setting or format you should shoot on (e.g. whether to shoot on high definition full high quality).
6. View *Setting up Tripod* in the Techniques folder of Cinematography in the DVD of Screen Media (inside the Resources folder in the side bar of Prac Exercises on the course web site).
7. Practice putting up and taking down the tripod a couple of times, making sure it is level, using the baseplate and undoing and doing up the clamps. Be careful not to move the tripod unless the appropriate screws are loosened, or the screw threads will be damaged. Establish a procedure so you don't lose the baseplate screw. Become efficient and quick at this task.
8. Practice using the autofocus to focus the lens. Are there any times when this doesn't work? When?
9. Practice shooting through a window. Is there any problem when you place a figure in the foreground against the light. Can you alter the framing to make the shot work?
10. Practice moving the camera horizontally and vertically on the tripod  
Loosening the appropriate screws when you do so. Combine a pan and a tilt, using a person as a moving subject or panning over a landscape.
11. Lock off the tripod when you have finished, so that the head of the tripod does not tilt. Do not tighten the screws too much.
12. Remember never to leave a camera unattended on a tripod. (Take it off the tripod and move it to somewhere safe if you need to move around).
13. Repack the camera case carefully, making sure all the items are replaced and that the microphone shoe is in place on top of the camera.
14. Pack the tripod, making sure the baseplate screw is in place.

Note 3 important things about this camera –

- You must reformat it each time you take it out to use it.
- You cannot simply drag and drop files to capture
- So you must leave time at the end of your shoot to capture into Final Cut Pro.

You will find out more in next week's prac about capturing your footage to Final Cut Pro.

