Shooting Digital Film: Information Sheet

Establishing Shot This shot in filming sets up the setting of a scene. It is typically at the beginning of a movie or scene.
Medium Shot This shot in filming shows the subject(s) from the waist or knees up. It is used to show more body language and less specific detail.
Close Up shot This shot in filming tightly frames a person or object to show detail or emotion.
Long Shot This shot in filming shows the entire figure/object in relation to its surroundings. This is typically filmed "far" from the object.
Tracking Shot This shot in filming follows the action at a constant distance. The camera person moves as the subject moves, keeping the subject on screen at all times.
Zoom Shot This shot in filming is done by zooming in to isolate the subject or zooming out to show the subject in a wider context
Swish Pan Shot This shot in filming moves the camera from one subject to another very quickly.
High Angle Shot This shot in filming has the camera located above the subject and films down on it. It is sometimes used to show which character is more powerful.
Low Angle Shot This shot in filming has the camera located below the subject and films up on it, usually from the knees up. It can also show the power of a character in a conversation.
Reverse Angle Shot This shot in filming switches between two or more subjects in a dialogue scene. It is shot from the other side of the subject.
Arc Shot This shot in filming has the camera moving around the object in a circular motion in order to show the image from more angles.
Point of View Shot This shot in filming shows the scene from a character's perspective. You see through the character's eyes.
Head On Shot This shot in filming happens when the action comes straight into the camera.
Linking Shot This shot in filming tells two stories by showing two different subjects in one shot.
Insider Shot This shot in filming takes place when the camera is placed inside an object. It gives a fresh perspective.
Jaws Shot This shot in filming happens by zooming in while moving the camera backwards. It is used to show shocking realization or for dramatic effect.
Frisbee Shot This shot in filming places a camera behind (or even attached to) an object that is being carried around