SCRIPT TERMINOLOGY

ANGLE - The shot as seen by the camera.

BACKGROUND (bg) - This indicates any actors, extras or scenery that is behind the foreground.

BEAT - A short pause before the action or dialogue continues.

CLOSEUP (C.U.) - A shot which only includes your face and perhaps down to the top shirt button or opening of a dress. A 'TCU' (Tight Close Up) is an even tighter close up of the face or part of it.

CONT'D (continued) - Indicates more of that scene or the character's dialogue follows.

DISSOLVE - Where the script says 'dissolve', the director will have you hold or stretch out a final moment of a take. Later in editing, there is enough film left to allow your face or the action to slowly disappear while another scene appears.

DOWNSTAGE - A movement or area toward the audience.

EXT. (exterior) - Indicates that the scene takes place outside a specified area.

FOREGROUND (fg) - Term used to describe the action closest to the camera.

FULL - The camera shows a large area of the scene.

INT. (interior) - Indicates that the scene takes place inside a specified area.

INTERCUT - Usually indicates cuts between the two characters back and forth as they speak to one another.

LONG SHOT (LS) - When the actors are positioned a distance from the camera and shows the full body of the actors.

MEDIUM SHOT (MS) - Shows most of the actor's body. This shot sometimes two people or more.

MOS - Without sound (German)

O.C. (Off Camera) - See O. S.

O. S. (Off Stage) - Usually the voice of the character is heard when said character is not on camera. Also considered a V.O. (Voice Over).

OVERLAP - Talking too soon after another character speaks. Scripts may indicate that the actors should "overlap" their dialogue. In this case the actor talks while the other actor is speaking, usually near the tail end of the other actor's line.
OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT – This is a shot over the shoulder of one actor showing the other actor's face. A small part of the initial actor's head and shoulder is seen in the foreground.

PAGE NUMBERS - Page numbers are usually found in the top middle or right hand side of the scripted page. They usually have a period after them.

POSITION (PLACES) - Term that describes where the actor is to be when the scene begins.

POV - Point of View... usually when the camera takes the place of an actor for another angle. The camera becomes the eyes of the character, thus shows what the character sees.

PREMISE - Describes what the overall story is about in a scene, episode of film script. It can usually be stated in one or two simple sentences. Example: Two boys confronting one another about a lost toy.

SCENARIO - Is the plot and arrangement of incidents. It is the sequence of events of a "blow by blow" description of the scene.

SCENE NUMBERS - The scene numbers are usually found in the left margin of the scripted page and usually do not have a period after them.

SETTING - The place and time of the scene.

SIDES - One or more scenes from the screenplay that is given to the actor for audition purposes.

STAGE AREAS - For convenience, the acting area is divided into nine areas, as shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Upstage Right</th>
<th>Upstage Center</th>
<th>Upstage Left</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Center Stage Right</td>
<td>Center Stage Center</td>
<td>Center Stage Left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downstage Right</td>
<td>Downstage Center</td>
<td>Downstage Left</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Audience or Camera

STAGE DIRECTIONS - Usually written from the far-left margin across the page to the far right margin. Dialogue is usually written in the middle of the page under the character's name. Often the character's dialogue is split up by stage direction.
STAGE LEFT - The area of the stage to the actor's left as he faces the audience or camera.

STAGE RIGHT - The area of the stage to the actor's right as he faces the audience or camera.

TWO-SHOT - A shot that includes two people.

UPSTAGE - A movement or area away from the audience.

WIDE (Wide Shot) - The camera sees a wide area of the action.

Parenthesis under the character's name is stage directions, usually indicating to whom the character is speaking or the emotion of the character as he speaks the dialogue.

In most scripts for television and film, the character's name is in upper case letters with the dialogue under it. It is usually centered on the page, while the stage and camera directions usually begin farther left on the page. Often dialogue is separated by stage direction.

"Where" the scene takes place and the time of day will be indicated, usually in upper case (capitol letters), at the beginning of each scene.
Example: EXT. WOODED AREA NIGHT.

Often parts of the sides will be crossed out with a line or "X" indicating that those sections of the audition sides will not be performed by the actor at the audition. The actor should always read everything on the script including that which is crossed out before the audition. This will assist the actor to fully understand the scenes that proceed and precede the dialogue.

Most two-hour movies run between 90 and 120 pages. Most one-half hour situation comedy (sit-com) scripts run between 26 to 40 pages. Knowing the page numbers on the sides will give you some idea as to what point your scene falls in the script.