

Fade In
The very first item on the first page should be these words

Scene Heading
A one line description of the location and time of day of a scene

Character's First Appearance
A description of the character, name should be CAPPED

Character
A character's name always appears above his dialogue

Subheader
For when a full scene heading is not necessary

Mores and Continueds:
Use mores and continueds between pages to indicate the same character is still speaking.

Intercut:
Instructions for a series of quick cuts between two scene locations

FADE IN:

EXT. WRITERS STORE - DAY

In the heart of West Los Angeles, a boutique shop's large OPEN sign glows like a beacon.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WRITERS STORE - SALES FLOOR - DAY

Writers browse the many scripts in the screenplay section.

ANTHONY, Canadian-Italian Story Specialist extraordinaire, 30s and not getting any younger, ambles over.

ANTHONY
Hey, how's everyone doin' here?

A WRITING ENTHUSIAST, 45, reads the first page of "The Aviator" by John Logan.

ENTHUSIAST
Can John Logan write a killer first page or what?

ANTHONY
You, sir, are a gentleman of refined taste. John Logan is my non-Canadian idol.

The phone RINGS. Anthony goes to--

THE SALES COUNTER

And answers the phone.

ANTHONY
Writers Store, Anthony speaking.

VOICE
(over phone)
Do you have "Chinatown" in stock?

I/E LUXURIOUS MALIBU MANSION - DAY

A FIGURE roams his estate, cell phone pressed to his ear.

ANTHONY (O.S.)
'Course we have "Chinatown"! Robert Towne's masterpiece is arguably the Great American Screenplay...
(MORE)

ANTHONY (O.S.) (CONT'D)
I mean, that or "Shawshank Redemption" or "Network" or "American Beauty"... Yes, we do have "Chinatown".

INTERCUT PHONE CONVERSATION

FIGURE
That is such great news. I've been

Action
The narrative description of the events of a scene

Transition
Film editing instructions

Dialogue
Lines of speech for each character

Parenthetical
Action or attitude direction for a character

Extension
A note placed after the character's name to indicate how the voice will be heard onscreen

Page Number
Located 0.5" from the top, flush right

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