

Zoom Shot

A *zoom* is technically not a camera move as it does not require the camera itself to move at all. Zooming means altering the focal length of the lens to give the illusion of moving closer to or further away from the action.

Zooming is effectively magnifying a part of the image, while moving the camera creates a difference in perspective — background objects appear to change in relation to foreground objects. This is sometimes used for creative effect in the [dolly zoom](#).

Zooming is an easy-to-use but hard-to-get-right feature of most cameras. It is arguably the most misused of all camera functions.

Zooming, when compared to using a dolly, is a magnification of the frame rather than a camera move, so it has very different emotional and psychological effects. Because a zoom compresses the background and flattens the shot, it can cause the audience to feel claustrophobic or force them to fixate on a single subject. Zooming can also be used to give viewers a sense of paranoia. Francis Ford Coppola used zooms to this effect in his 1974 psychological thriller *The Conversation*—the camera became less an eye through which the audience could see events unfold and more a lens through which the audience could surveil each character.



Camera- Reverse Zoom

Reverse zooming is a special technique first used by Hitchcock in *Vertigo*. While zooming is increasing the focal length of the lens, reverse zooming is when the camera is moving towards the background while zooming out or the camera moves away from the character or background while zooming in. Using reverse zooming gives the audience a unique effect of the background increasing or decreasing in size while the subject is approximately the same in size compared to the change of size for the background.



In this picture from *Jaws*, we see reverse zooming being used where the lens is zooming out but the camera is moving towards the character. Reverse zooming in this extract is used to show the character's slow realization of what has happened and used to create suspense which is another common use of reverse zooming.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AIIPrM3EU4Q>