

Basic Script Formatting

MOVIE FORMAT

There are three bodies of a script: Headings, Narrative and Dialogue. Each of these has three points to remember.

Headings:

1. Master scene headings which include:
 - a) Camera location - EXT. (exterior or outside) or INT. (interior or inside)
 - b) Scene location (LOCAL RACE TRACK)
 - c) Time (DAY or NIGHT)
2. Secondary scene heading
3. "Special headings" for things such as montages, dream sequences, flashbacks, flash forwards, etc.

Narrative Description:

1. Action
2. Character and settings (visual)
3. Sounds

Dialogue:

1. The name of the person speaking appears at the top, in CAPS.
2. The actors direction (AKA parenthetical or wryly). Try to avoid these as much as possible. Both the director and actor will appreciate it.
3. The speech.

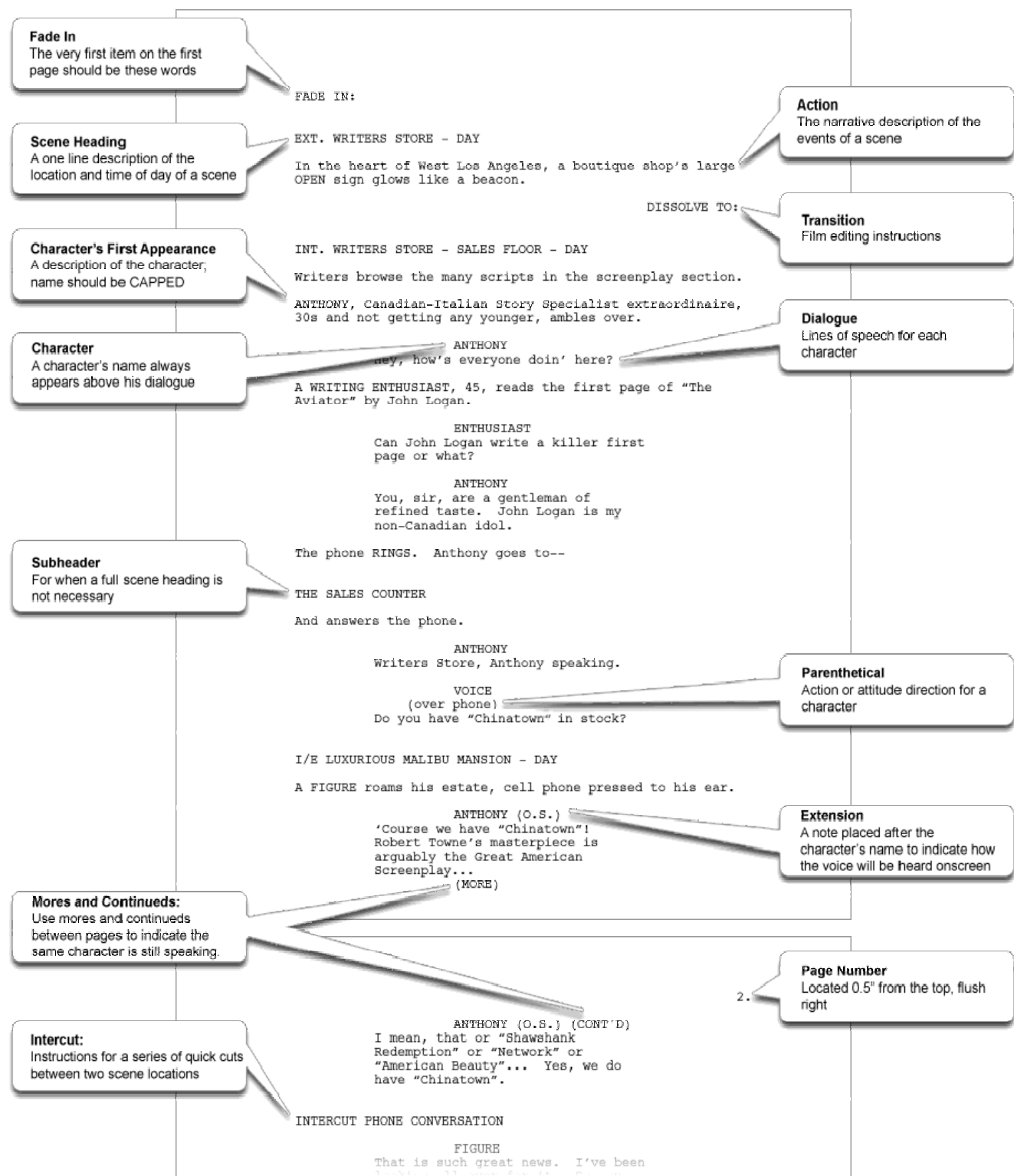
Putting all this together you should come up with something that looks like this:

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INT. BARRY'S BAR - NIGHT

Beer stains the shirt of CLINT BILLINGTON.

                CLINT BILLINGTON
            (Drunkenly concerned)
        My wife will kill me if she sees
        this!

CLINT reaches for a cloth and topples off his stool.
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TV NEWS FORMAT

SLUG:
WRITER:
Date:

TRT:

VIDEO	AUDIO
<p>ANCHOR: Anchor lead-in</p> <p>TAKE PACKAGE</p> <p><i>...remember to begin with an establishing shot—and/or—your very best shot!</i></p> <p><i>...here you will list all the shots you have used in your story...</i></p> <p><i>...shots are ELS, LS, MS, CU, ECU,</i></p> <p>TAKE SOT <<if you have a soundbite in your package>></p> <p>CG: Name and title of soundbite subject</p> <p><i>List of shots continues</i></p> <p>ANCHOR: Anchor tag</p>	<p><<a lead into your package that is read by the anchor—should be no more than a couple of sentences and should introduce you as the reporter>></p> <p><<script for your package—should be written in the same conversational style as radio writing. TV scripts are usually written in all caps. Make sure you pictures match your script... Remember, you lead should be strong... remember you need to bring the soundbite to the viewer... give us a reason to want to hear this person >></p> <p>-----S O U N D B I T E-----</p> <p><<full text of the soundbite>></p> <p>-----SOUNDBITE OUT-----</p> <p><< script continues>></p> <p>(standard outcue) THIS IS _____ WITH PRODUCER _____ REPORTING FOR [insert name of station].</p> <p><<a short tag the anchor reads that adds something else to your story>></p>