

MA 3DCA

COMMON TERMINOLOGY:

used in Computer Animation Education & Industry:

(Revised 27-09-2017)

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What does ANIMATION mean?

Animation does NOT mean “to move something”.

Animation means “to bring alive”. To breath life into a non living thing.

Animation is brought about by a combination of “movement” and “timing”.

Film Terminology:

These terms are used commonly across TV & Film Media (except for “Scene File”)

Film Terminology:	Its meaning	Derived from
Shot	A continuous piece of recorded video film without a break.	Film Industry
Sequence	Lots of shots in strung together. There is usually more than one shot in a Sequence.	Film & Animation Industry
Scene	A Setup or combination of characters, other items, and background elements.	Theatre
(Scene File)	Usually a MAYA file which contains all the elements needed to generate a shot or a sequence.	MAYA
Prop. (Property)	An essential item within the sequence or shot which is not a character, costume or environment.	Theatre

Shot Descriptions:

Used to describe and plan shots and sequences

Shot Type Description	Abbreviation
Extreme Close Up	ECU
Close Up	CU
Mid Shot	MS
Wide Shot	WS
Very Wide Shot	VWS
Extreme Wide Shot	EWS
Panning shot.	
Tracking shot.	
Zoom in/out.	
Locked off.	

Words and Phrases used in Animation:

These are common to all animation and not just 3D Computer Animation

Animation Words & Phrases	Example or Context	Their Meaning
Trial and Error	It's trail and error before we get it right	The use of experimentation
Practice	Practice your animation all week	Doing something repeatedly in order to improve
Experiment	Experiment to try and improve your animation	Trying out something that might not work
Patience	Good animation needs lots of patience	Suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious
Pose	Pose your character at the start of the sequence	To assume a particular position or shape
Held	The character is held because he is deep in thought.	Freeze the Action or Pause in the action
A hold	Hold the character will he thinks	Pause in the action
A Moment	A moment in time.	Usually a small or cross section of time
Motion	Keep the motion going	Movement
Rhythm	Walk in a regular rythme.	a strong, regular repeated pattern of movement
Choreography	Usually refers to ballet dancers	the art of composing, planning and arranging the movements, steps, and patterns of animated entities.
Cause and Effect	The cause is he tripped up and the effect is he falls over	noting a relationship between actions or events such that one or more are the result of the other or others
Projection	Theatrical terminology	The Emphasis or magnification of movement or a pose in order for the audience to notice
Anticipation	I wonder!	expectation or prediction
Key frame	traditional animation terminology	A pose at a certain moment in time
Key	In computer terminology	A value at a moment in time
Minutes, seconds & frames	The sequence is 2 minutes, 4 seconds and 6 frames long	used to quantify amounts of time
Duration	It has a 6 second duration	A quantity or length of time

Cycle (Circular)	The walk should cycle 5 times	A movement that can be continued by going back to the beginning.
Cycle (Reciprocating)	The pendulum should keep swinging	A movement that can be continued by reversing back to the beginning and then forward again.

Words and Phrases used in the Media:

Media Words & Phrases	Their Meaning
Screen Aspect Ratio	Proportional relationship of the screen between its width and its height You will work with 16/9
Pixel	Basic unit of programmable colour on a computer display or in a computer image
FPS	Frames Per Second. You will work using 25 FPS
Video Format	Can be described by dimensions in pixels or a standard format like HD 720, or HD 1080
Video File Compression	A way of making video computer files smaller. Examples are MP4 or Quicktime H264
Movie or Video File	A file that contains a video audio sequence.
A File naming convention	A way of naming a file that everyone agrees on and that is easy to find and identify.

Words and Phrases used in Feedback:

Feedback is an essential part of your learning process. Sometimes the lecturers can use words or phrases that are “a little obscure” when describing your work. We hope this table will help your understanding.

Words & Phrases used in Feedback	Their Meaning
A little obscure	Hard to understand
Fine	Not bad and probably a little bit good
Reasonable	Above average but not much more.
Engaging	Encourages the observer to become involved or concentrate.
Comprehensive	Covers a broad range of issues.
Observations	Things that have been examined or looked at.
Structure	The way something is constructed.
Substance	The solid part, or content, which makes up most of the whole.
Framework	A construction on which substance can be placed, in a meaningful way.
Well Rounded	Balanced with no sharp edges.
Commitment	The amount of investment in time and/or energy.
Woolly	Lacking structure or not properly thought out.
Room for Improvement	Could do better.
Crap (<i>withdrawn July 2017</i>)	Of low overall quality
Poor (<i>replaces the word above</i>)	Of low overall quality
Minimal	Not a lot of anything. Small in its content or poor in planning.
Peripheral	Around the edge and not part of the substance.

Like to add a word or phrase?

Is there a word or phrase that is used by a colleague or lecturer that you don't understand? It could be added to this Guide and be useful to other students.

Ask your lecturer if you think something should be added to this guide. This could be one of your legacies to improving the programme.