

How Visual Effects (VXF) Works

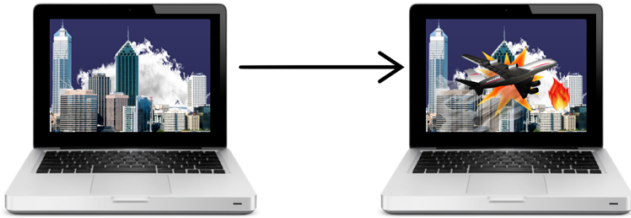
An Easy Read Guide



Tip!

Words in **pink** can be found in the Easy Read Glossary

What is VFX?



Visual Effects or **VFX** are anything you see on screen that is created, changed or removed using a computer.



Examples of VFX include creating a monster or a dinosaur.



It could also be changing an **actor's** face to look like a zombie.

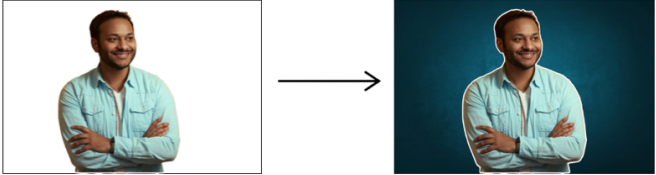


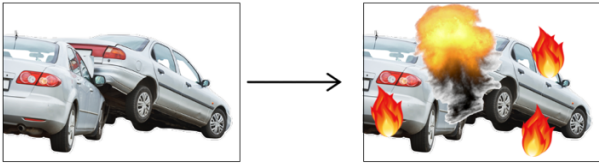


It can also mean adding mountains where there are not any.

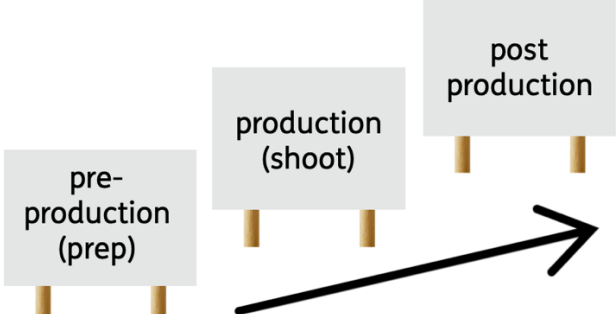






Or it could be removing modern buildings from the background of a scene set in the past.




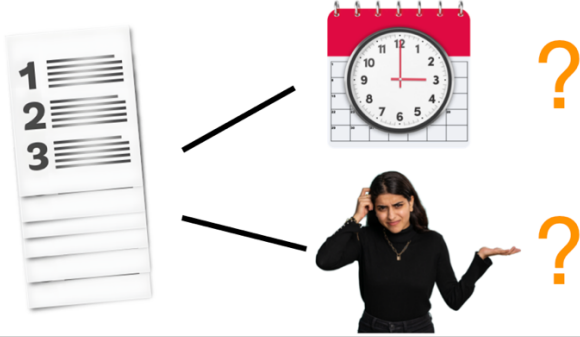

	<p>VFX is a computer tool that is used to make TV and films look more magical or real.</p>
	<p>Audiences do not always notice when VFX have been added to a film or TV programme.</p>
	<p>VFX can also make crowds look bigger</p>
	<p>or actors look younger</p>
	<p>or remove cables or mats used by stunt performers.</p>

	<p>VFX can be used to change the backgrounds that the actors appear in.</p>
	<p>This might be done if a scene is set somewhere too difficult or dangerous to shoot.</p>
	<p>For example it can be used to make it look like someone is standing on top of a tall building</p>
	<p>or to make a big explosion without putting actors, crew or the location at risk.</p>

Who Makes VFX?

	<p>There are VFX people involved at all stages of a production.</p>
	<p>VFX Producers work with the Director and Producer to understand the VFX they need to do.</p>
	<p>When there are a lot of VFX needed, there is a team which includes Managers, Coordinators and Production Assistants.</p>
	<p>Sometimes there is a VFX Editor who edits and organises the VFX being made and checks them for mistakes.</p>
	<p>VFX Supervisors manage the whole VFX process.</p> <p>They review each step and check with the Director, Producer and Editor that everything is OK.</p>

The VFX Process

	<p>It takes lots of people to make VFX</p>
	<p>and VFX work starts in pre-production.</p>
	<p>First the VFX Producer will read the script and work out what VFX are needed.</p>
	<p>They will work out how difficult the VFX are and how long they will take to make.</p>
	<p>VFX can be expensive and take a long time to create.</p>



The VFX Producer will also work out if any effects in the script can be created without VFX.



For example doing **stunts** or finding a real-life location.



Next the VFX Producer will work out how much the VFX will cost



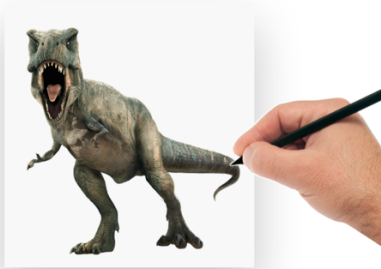
and make a **schedule** of when the VFX need to be made.



The VFX schedule needs to fit with the other production and edit schedules.



Next the VFX Supervisor talks to the Director, the Producer and the **Studio** to understand what they want the VFX to look like.



Then an **Artist** draws examples of the characters, props and environments that will be created by VFX.




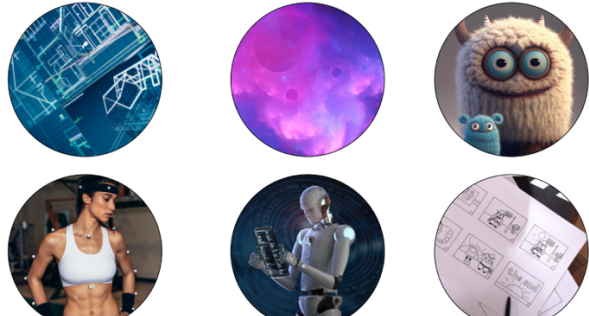

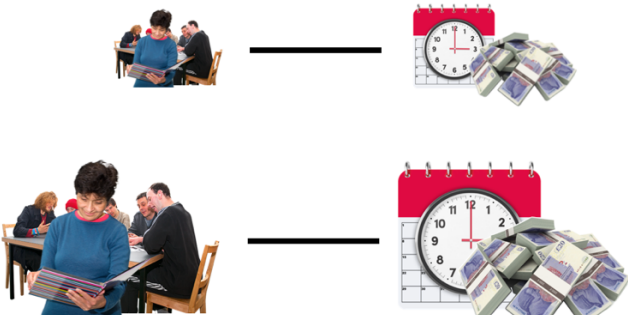
Next the production will decide on a **VFX Facility**.



A VFX Facility is a company the production hires to create all of the VFX.



The VFX Artists who work at the VFX Facility will create the Artist's drawings on a computer.

	<p>VFX Artists are experts in different ways to make VFX.</p>
	<p>These include modelling, texturing, simulation, MatchMove, 3D work and Storyboarding.</p>
	<p>Some VFX Artists are experts in more than one type.</p>
	<p>The size and budget of the production affects how many VFX Artists will work on the film or TV programme.</p>

The Process: Assets



VFX can involve lots of different parts.



This might include models, video recordings, or paintings.

These different parts are called **assets**.



The VFX Artists need to have the assets ready for when they are needed during filming.



This is why decisions about VFX need to be made early in the **production schedule**



so the artists have enough time to create assets.

The Camera Department



It is important for the **Camera Department** to have an ideal of what the final VFX will look like.



The VFX Artists make simple **animations** to use on **set** during filming.







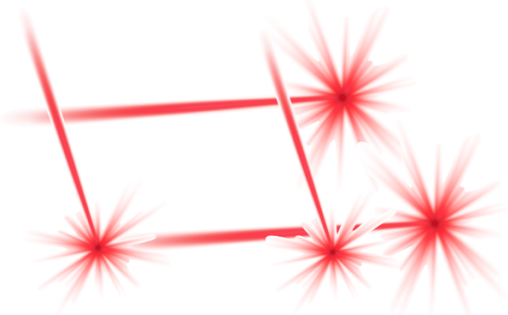
These animations tell the Camera Department where the final VFX will be on the screen and what size they will be.



This means they will know where to put the **live action** elements within the camera **shot** so that they are in the right place when the VFX are put in.



A live action element is something that is real, like actors and locations.

	<p>VFX teams are on set during filming so they can help with where the camera needs to point and how it moves.</p>
	<p>This is important because the movements of the VFX and the camera need to work together.</p>
	<p>The VFX Supervisor works with the Director, Camera, Lighting and Art Departments to set up the shot before filming starts.</p>
	<p>Lots of different equipment might be used to make sure the VFX work with live action.</p> <p>For example, they might use markers to follow the movements of actors and objects.</p>
	<p>Or they use a LIDAR which is a tool that can build 3D maps using laser beams.</p>

VXF on Set



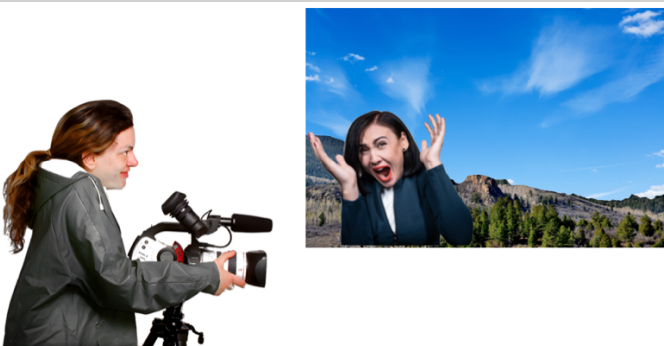
The VFX Supervisor is on set during filming to let the Director know what VFX will happen in each shot.



The Director uses this information to help the actors understand what will happen on screen so they can do a great performance.



Remember that the VFX cannot be seen during filming



so actors perform with characters, details, and environments that are not there yet.



The more information the Director and actors have about what the VFX will look like, the better the performances will be.

After Filming



After a scene or shot that needs VFX has been filmed it is sent to the VFX team to work on.

This is called a **VFX turnover**.



They can then start making the final VFX for the scene or shot.



They look at the video and decide what shot works best



and work out how long the scene will be.



Then someone called a **Compositor** will bring all the different parts together in a final shot.

Composite means to put things together.



This is where all the VFX are fully added into the live action scenes.



During **post-production**, the VFX Facility will send the Editor early versions of the VFX to try in the edit.



99%



These are called **drafts**.

These VFX are not finished but give a good idea of what the final VFX will look like.



The Director, Producer, VFX Producer, VFX Supervisor, and **Post-Production Supervisor** will check each new edit.




100%



When everyone has agreed on the edit, the VFX Facility will create the final VFX.

Virtual Production

	<p>Another way to do VFX is to put them on a very big screen with the live action happening at the same time.</p> <p>This means the cameras can film the VFX and the live action together</p>
	<p>so the VFX do not need to be added in post-production.</p>
	<p>This is called virtual production.</p>
	<p>Virtual production is being used more and more.</p>
	<p>Look on the <u>Screenskills website</u> for more information about Virtual Production.</p>