

## Module 2.5 – Digital Video

### Introduction

In recent years there has been a decrease in the price of digital video cameras and an increase in the power of desktop computers. In addition the software tools used for editing digital video have become increasingly user friendly and accessible for typical home users. This has allowed personal computer users to have professional level video editing tools at their disposal.

There are three main stages in working with digital video:

#### **Importing Video**

Capture from a digital video camera or import video clips already saved on your computer

#### **Editing Video**

Arrange your clips, add special effects, titles and soundtracks

#### **Exporting Video**

Save your finished file to your computer, a CD or a video cassette

In this module you will carry out these three stages, first of all to practice editing some pre-recorded clips and then to plan, script and record your own 'movie'.



## Task 1 – Introduction to Windows Movie Maker

In Movie Maker you will arrange a number of short video clips with effects and credits to create an original movie. When using any new program for the first time, it is important to familiarise yourself with the tools and menu options available.

Another useful source of information for helping learn about the facilities of a program is the online help, available as a series of help files you can read onscreen when using the program.

The main categories of online help are displayed below.

### Movie Making Tips







[How to capture video](#)

[How to edit clips](#)

[How to add titles, effects, transitions](#)

[How to save and share movies](#)

By moving your cursor over the following tools write a description of how each tool would be used.

Tool	Description
	
	
	
	
	
	

By using online help, answer the following questions.

1. Describe the five steps in capturing video.
2. Which type of port should you connect your digital video camera to?
3. You have several options when editing clips. Name and describe four techniques that you can use when editing clips.
4. What are video transitions?
5. What do video effects allow you to do?
6. How do titles and credits enhance your video?
7. Describe the different ways of saving a completed movie file.

## Task 2 – Importing Video Clips

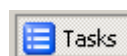
In this task you will import a number of short video clips into Movie Maker. The clips are short segments of pop videos. You will assemble these into a 'Top Ten' chart show.

The clips are stored on the file server in the Central Resource Library. You must copy these files over to your My Videos folder. If you do not have your own copy of the files then Movie Maker may crash.

Once you have imported the clips you can view the individual movie segments by selecting the Collections tool:



To switch back to see the Movie Tasks, select the Tasks button:



- Follow your teacher's instructions to access the Central Resource Library
- Copy the video files to your own My Videos folder
- From the Capture Video tools, select Import Video



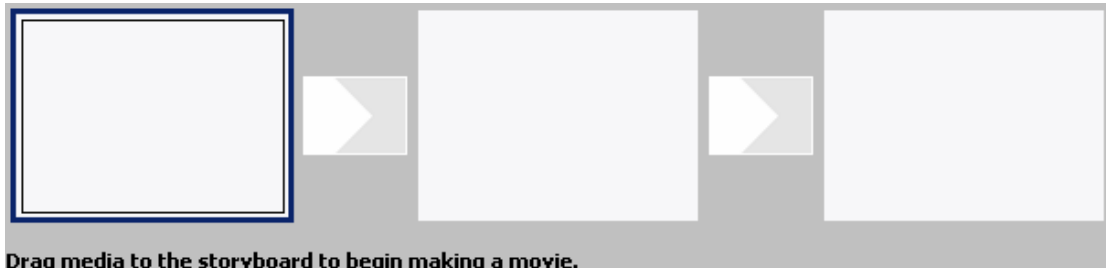
- View these clips by selecting Collections



### Task 3 – Creating a Timeline

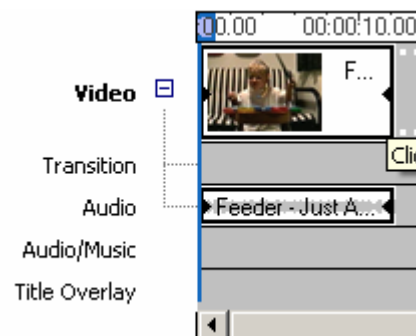
Having imported a number of clips you must start to organise these clips and trim them to the correct size and length.

At the bottom of the Movie Maker window is a series of blank screens into which you can drag individual clips and arrange in the order you wish to play back the video.



**Drag media to the storyboard to begin making a movie.**

Trimming a video clip means to alter its start or finish position. To trim a clip, switch from Storyboard View to Timeline view.



Then simply drag the ends of each clip to the exact point that you would like it to start and stop.



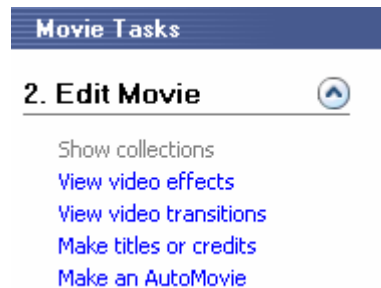
You can accomplish very fine control of each clips start/stop points by trimming, especially if you zoom in on each clip using the magnifying glass.

- Arrange ten video clips into the order you wish to view them
- Trim the individual clips to the correct length
- Save your file

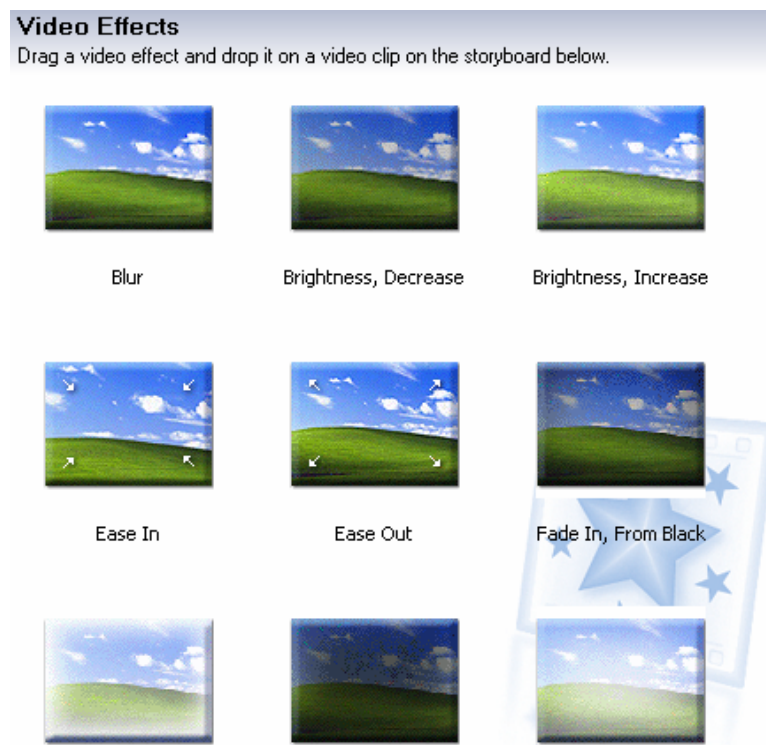
## Task 4 – Adding Visual Effects

Windows Movie Maker comes with a number of video effects that you can add to your movie clips. These effects are numerous and easy to apply and can greatly enhance your video.

To apply an effect, click on Tools on the menu bar, and click on Video Effects. Alternatively choose View Video Effects from the Movie Tasks pane.



This will display many effects in the main window. These thumbnails give samples of the different effects you can add to a clip. To add one, drag the effect you wish to apply to the video clip. Once the effect is applied, a star will appear on the clip. Play around with the effects, and see which ones you like.



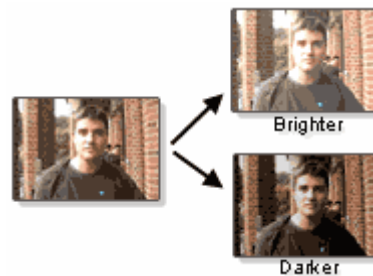
- Apply video effects to some or all of the clips in your movie
- Save your file

## Task 5 – Useful Effects

Some of the most useful effects available in Movie Maker are described below.

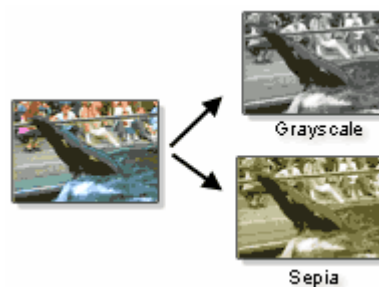
### Brightness Increase and Decrease

These brightness effects are very useful for fixing your video's exposure levels. If you filmed an indoor scene that looks too dark, you can simply brighten the video with the brightness effect. If your video still isn't bright enough, you can repeat the effect several times until you get the look you want.



### Greyscale and Sepia Tone

Both of these effects remove the colour from your film, and the sepia effect gives your film a pleasant "yellowed old photograph" look. You can use these effects to make your movie look classy or to create a "flashback" or "dream sequence" scene within a movie.



### Slow down and speed up

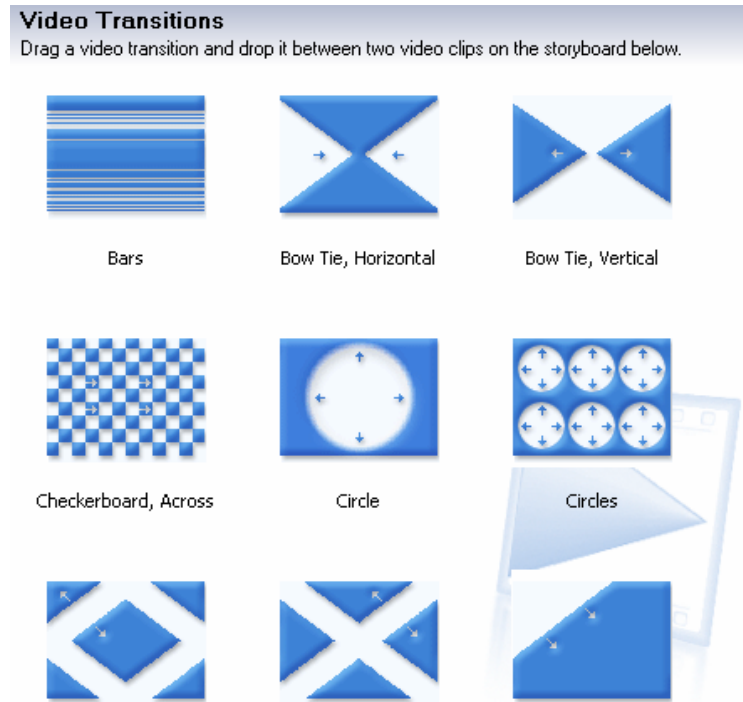
These two effects can be useful for creating comedy "movies." For example, you could make a fake kung-fu movie with your kids and use the speed-up effect to create rapid-motion fighting scenes. Likewise, the slow-down effect could be used to create the clichéd "slow motion punch" that is common in American action movies. You could also use the speed up effect to make funny slapstick comedies.

- Experiment with these video effects

## Task 6 – Video Transitions

Movie Maker 2 comes with a huge selection of transitions that you can place between your video clips. These are special effects that appear when one clip changes to the next.

To apply an effect, click on Tools on the menu bar, and click on Video Effects. Alternatively choose View Video Effects from the Movie Tasks pane.



Then simply drag one of the effects to the small box between two clips.

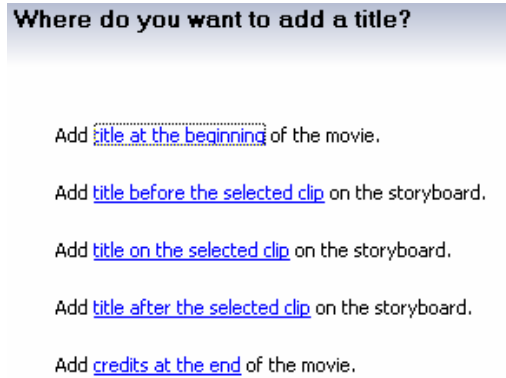


- Add transition effects between each clip in your movie
- Save your file

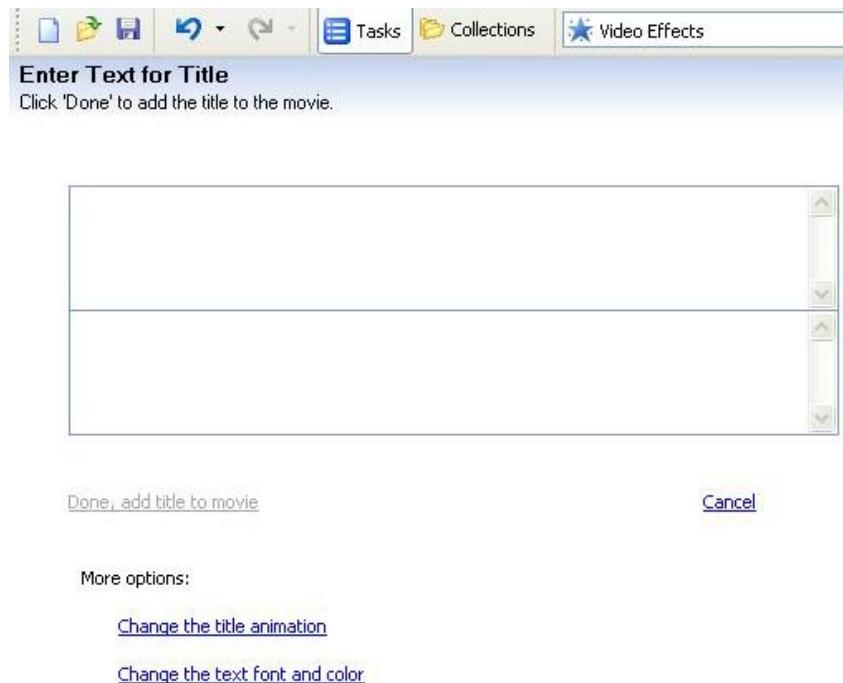
## Task 7 – Adding Credits

Credits can add a lot of useful information to a movie. You can add opening or closing credits before or after a movie. You can also add credits to an individual movie clip.

To add a title to a movie, click on "Tools" on the menu bar, and then click on "Titles and Credits". Alternatively choose Make Titles or Credits from the Movies Tasks pane. This will bring up the following window.

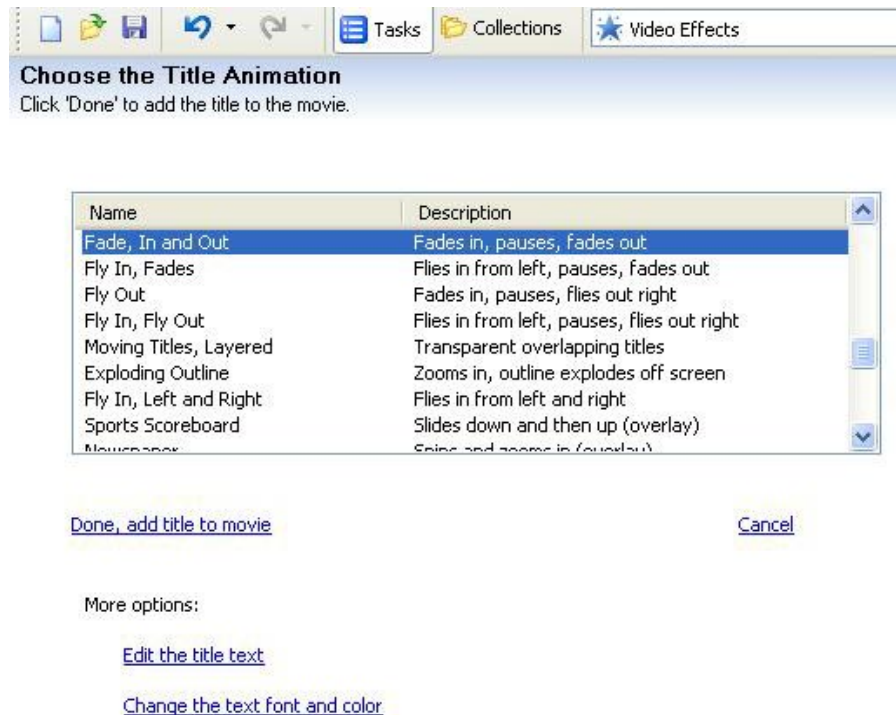


Follow the instructions, and choose where in the movie you want to put the title. Once you have selected, then new window will appear.



Here is where you would type in what you want in the title. If there are 2 boxes (as shown), then this is a 2 line title. If there is one box, then it is a 1 line title. Once you have typed in your text, click on "Change the title animation" link at the bottom.

Here's the fun part. Highlight each animation name to sample what it looks like. Play around with this, because there are several fun options you can apply to your title. When you have found which animation you would like, click on "Edit the title text".

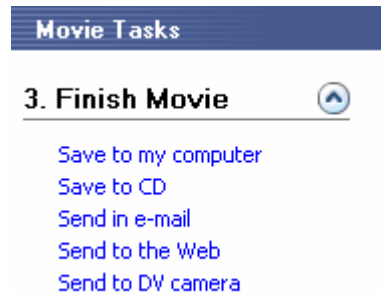


You may also choose the text font, size, colour, transparency, and properties of your title. If you want to make a change to the title, just click on the appropriate link under "More options" in the window. When all options (text, animation, and font) have been set, click on "Done, add title to movie" to insert the title in the movie.

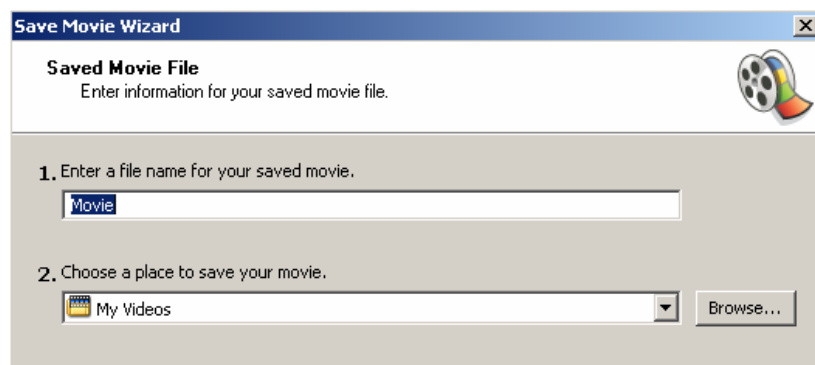
- Add opening credits to your movie
- Add closing credits to your movie
- Add credits to a number of your clips

## Task 8 – Saving a Completed Movie

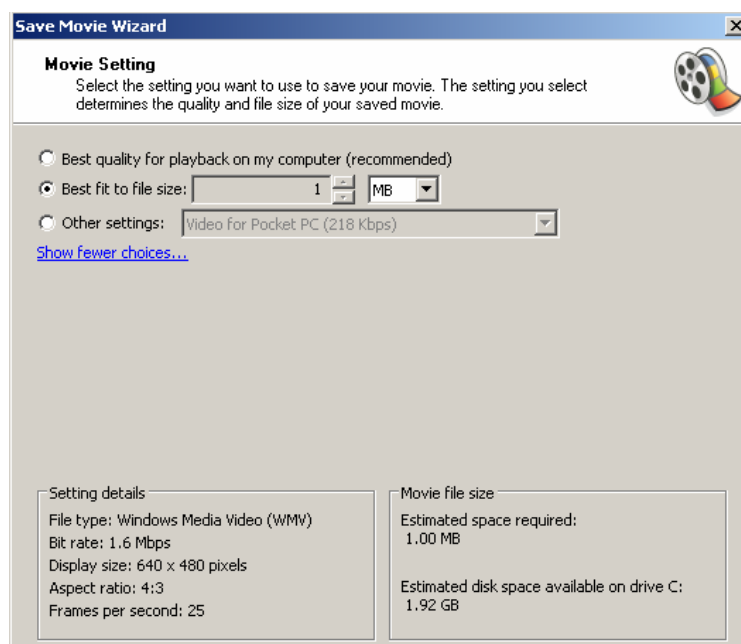
Once all editing has been finished, it's time to save the movie. Go to File and choose Save Movie File on the menu bar. Alternatively choose Save to My Computer from the Movie Tasks pane.



Enter a file name for your movie in the first box, then select the folder where you want to save the file in the second box.



Although you can change the size and quality of your movie, at this time leave the file as Best Fit to File Size and save your movie.



- Save your completed movie

## **Extension Tasks**

### **Adding Still Images**

Often a video can incorporate a still image, e.g. the title of the show.

Download, scan or create an image to insert as a still image into your video.

### **Adding a Sound Track**

Think about the opening sequence of the comedy series Friends. The theme tune plays over a series of video clips from the show, joined together. The theme tune has been added as a **soundtrack**.

Obtain an MP3 file from the Central Resource Library. Add this to a section of your video as a soundtrack.

## Assessable Task Introduction

In this module you will not sit a written exam. Instead, you will work collaboratively to plan, script, film, edit and compile your own original movie.

You will do this by carrying out the following steps

- Planning Your Video

Decide upon your group and brainstorm upon a movie concept. It need not be a two hour blockbuster, better to plan for a few short scenes that will be easy to film, capture and edit. Your teacher will give you some guidelines about the type of movie you may like to create.

- Creating a Storyboard and Script

Having decided upon the movie concept, draw a storyboard showing the main scenes of your movie. Then produce a script for all dialogue in your movie.

- Shooting Your Video

Arrange with your teacher to use the digital video camera to film your movie. Obviously with all of S2 filming a lot of movies it may not always be possible to use the camera when you wish to. It may be necessary to arrange to use the camera outside of class time.

- Capturing Your Video

Your teacher will transfer all video clips from the camera to the computer. All clips will be stored in the Central Resource Library and you must save your clips onto your own folder.

- Editing Your Video

Edit the clip using the techniques learned previously.

- Saving Your Video

Save your file and your teacher will grade your whole project by looking at your preparation, script, storyboard, video clips and completed movie.

### **Homework Exercise 1 – Digital Video Editing**

1. Describe three technological advances that have contributed to the growth of digital video. (3)
2. By using a site such as Dabs.com or by referring to newspaper or magazine adverts, find the model, price and features of a digital video camera. (2)
3. Recorded movies can be transferred to the computer via a Firewire connection. Describe what is meant by 'Firewire'. (1)
4. In this module we use Windows Movie Maker for editing our digital video. Name two other video editing software packages. (2)
5. Name two programs that may be used for viewing movie files. (2)

**Total (10)**

## Homework Exercise 2 – Windows Movie Maker

1. Name and describe three transition effects available in Windows Movie Maker. (3)
2. Name and describe three types of credits available in Windows Movie Maker. (3)
3. Name and describe the three places that credits may be used in a movie, giving typical examples of each. (3)
4. Describe 'trimming' of video clips, explaining how it can make a movie more professional. (1)

**Total (10)**

### Homework Exercise 3 – Evaluation

1. How could you have improved the scripting of your movie? (1)
2. How could you have improved the filming of your movie? (1)
3. How could you have improved the editing of your movie? (1)
4. What else would you do differently next time you create a movie? (1)
5. How can group work enhance your learning? (1)
6. How can group work hinder your learning? (1)
7. Describe the technique of brainstorming which may be used when writing a movie script. (1)
8. How can a storyboard help in the preparation of a video? (1)
9. Describe the main roles carried out by your group members during the production of your movie. (2)

**Total (10)**