

Adobe Premiere Elements

Lesson 2: Editing – Trimming clips

When you're creating a video you will certainly want to trim out the "junk" or unnecessary parts of your clips. In our soccer Schnauzer movie, the last clip contains a long sequence of Schotzy trotting across the length of the deck. We don't need all this footage to make the point that he retrieved the ball successfully. Let's trim the end of this clip:

Trimming Clips in the Timeline

1. Move the current-time indicator to the 26 second mark (watch the time indicator in the monitor window – it's the blue timer on the left side under the preview window). We want to trim out everything from this point to the end.
2. Now place your cursor at the end of the last clip until it changes to a Trim Out tool -- a double black arrow with a red bracket pointing to the left.
3. Make sure the bracket is pointing left, then click and drag the end of the clip to the 26 second mark. The clip is now trimmed. If there were clips after this one, they would automatically snap into place.

Trimming Clips Using the Razor Tool

In the second clip, there is an unfortunate moment when the photographer (who shall remain unnamed) zoomed in and out with lightening speed. It's enough to make the viewer dizzy. So let's get rid of this momentary photographic lapse. Since this sequence occurs in the middle of a clip rather than at the beginning or the end of a clip, we're going to use the razor tool instead of the Trim Out tool.

1. Place your current-time indicator at the beginning of the second clip. Press the spacebar to play the clip and notice this dizzying zoom (it begins at about 00;00;15;15 and ends around 00;00;17;00). Press the spacebar again to stop playing the clip once you have seen it.
2. Ok, let's get rid of this. Place the current time indicator at the 00;00;15;15 mark. Now select the razor tool in the upper left hand corner of the timeline window:



- Click once on the red line. Now move the current-time indicator to the 00;00;17;00 mark. Click once more on the red line with the razor tool.
3. Now click on the selection tool (the black arrow). Select the clip between 15;15 and 17;00. Hit the delete key to get rid of it. The clips to the right will automatically snap into place, closing the gap.