

## USING PRACTICAL LIGHTS

If you are filming a scene indoors where the talent is reading a book while a lamp is over their shoulder, using the lamp practically can provide the right quality and amount of light you need. The lamp used in this example is considered a practical light. Practical lights are regular light sources, (a lamp, window, overhead lights, etc.), that appear in your shot. Practical lights can be positioned strategically to light your scene to create a natural look.

Keep an eye out for shadows that a practical light source can give. A line or streak that was caused by the lamp shade could detract from the shot. Often we do not pay close attention to this. Always view the shot through the lens, and not only with your naked eyes, to avoid any surprises during editing. If a shadow does appear in the shot, try moving the practical light or moving your talent. Remember the distance that we see with our eyes is not the same distance seen by the lens. Repositioning your talent or even moving the camera back a few feet can make a huge difference to your shot.

When using practical lighting, treat it as a primary light source, although it might not be the main light used to light the room or your talent. If the lamp light is too bright or dim change the bulb to a different wattage, usually that all that's needed. A dimmer control may also help. A lamp by itself can be too dim to light a scene so supplement the practical light with other lighting that can fill the space while maintaining the same direction.