

Resume Tips: How to List Roles

TELEVISION (Network + Premium Cable):

- **Co-Star:** one-episode guest whose character's storyline may or may not be central to that episode (since co-star billing actually depends more on negotiation than size of the role), anywhere from one line to multiple scenes.
- **Guest Star:** one-episode guest whose character's storyline is central to that episode, works at a weekly rate (and is under contract for the week, even if only shooting a day or two).
- **Recurring:** character returns over multiple episodes, either on standing contract or contracted periodically, based on negotiations and number of appearances.
- **Series Regular:** contract role with exclusivity to the series, network, and production company for a term of a year or more; paid for a predetermined number of episodes produced, on contract for all episodes, even those in which the character doesn't appear.
- **Contract Role:** a soap opera AFTRA contract term for a daytime series regular or recurring character.
- **Under 5:** an AFTRA-only contract term for a character with between one and five lines.
- **Extra:** non-speaking role with no on-screen credit. This billing does not belong on an acting resume.

CABLE TV (Reenactment Shows):

- **Principal**
 - Why isn't it billed like Network & Premium Cable TV, as co-star and above? Casting Directors need to immediately differentiate between Network/Premium Cable and Non-Union Cable Reenactment shows.
- ⇒ *Please note it is spelled Principal, not Principle.*

NEW MEDIA:

- **Co-Star**
 - **Guest Star**
 - **Recurring**
 - **Web Series Regular**
 - **Principal can also be used for some projects.**
- ⇒ *Please note the SAG-AFTRA term for internet projects is New Media and should be listed separately from TV, with some exceptions.*

FILM:

- **Lead:** principal role in the film, in most scenes, on-screen credit is often in the credits that start the film (as well as in the complete end credits).
- **Supporting:** principal role in the film, Not a lead character although very important to the storyline. (Strong Supporting can also be used in some circumstances.
- **Featured:** principal role in the film with one or more lines but easily cut from the final version of the film.
- **Extra:** non-speaking role in the film with no on-screen credit. This billing does not belong on an acting resume. Do not bill an Extra as Featured.

COMMERCIAL:

★ Conflicts Available Upon Request

- ⇒ *Don't list your commercials, industrials and voiceovers on your legit resume. Instead, keep a running list to use for commercial agent interviews.*
- ⇒ *There are exceptions. (For example, your commercial may have been made into a web series that's popular on YouTube.)*

THEATRE:

- **Name of Character:** Most theatre credits include the character name, as role size is generally known. If, however, the production is of an original work or relatively new play, it is fine to include a parenthetical notation of "lead" after the character name. Also note that you originated the role, if that's the case. Depending on how well known the play becomes down the line, this could be especially impressive information.
- ★ With all issues of billing, check your contract. If you are working a union television contract, your billing will be spelled out specifically in your contract and there is no room for error.
- ★ If you do not have a contract or deal memo for your work, check the original breakdown for the project, as the billing for the role will likely be listed after the character description.
- ★ When in doubt, check with your agent or someone in production. You do not want to mistakenly upgrade yourself on your resume and then meet up with the casting director in the future. "Oh! You got bumped up from featured extra to co-star? That's GREAT!" "Uh, no. I actually didn't. Oops." "Oops is right, and I already knew that, since I'm the one who cast co-stars and the extras casting director is the one who cast you." Cue the lights and creepy music. That show is over.