

English through Movies

Discussion & Role-Play

Level 3

Michael Dyer

Copyright © 2025 by Michael Dyer

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other noncommercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write to the author at the address below.

Michael Dyer
books@lessonaccess.com

Ordering Information:

Quantity sales. Special discounts are available on quantity purchases by educational institutions, corporations, associations, and others. For details, contact the author at the address above.

ISBN 979-88-7633-378-0

YouTube Playlist



Contents

About the Course	v
Course Aim	v
Unit Components	v
Teaching Suggestions	vi
Assessment Strategies	vi
Disclaimers	vi
Movie Copyright: Use of Movies for Education	vii

Unit Topic	Movie	Time Frame	
1. Making First Impressions	Friends - Season 5.18	4:44-5:55	1
2. Fitting In	Friends - Season 5.18	08:31-90:39	7
3. Quitting Smoking	Friends - Season 5.18	15:20-16:22	13
4. Needing Closure	The Big Bang Theory - Season 6.21	8:54-18:41	19
5. Being Single	The Big Bang Theory - Season 6.16	2:20-19:26	25
6. Social Etiquette	How I met your mother - Season 8.24	2:46 - 8:00	31
7. Beating the System	Star Trek	33:22-35:36	37
8. Expressing Emotions	Star Trek	1:30:04-1:32:17	43
9. Doing What Feels Right	Star Trek	1:53:30-1:55:19	49
10. Acting on Moral Principles	Dave	55:52-59:27	55
11. Overstepping Boundaries	Dave	1:16:53-1:19:20	61
12. Workplace Politics	The Social Network	1:42:43-1:45:10	67

Appendices

Oral Performance Task Writing Sheets	73
Photocopiable Listening Quiz Sheet	75
Credits	76

Read and Discuss

Starting a new job presents many challenges, but probably the biggest of these is to make a good impression on your first day. Studies have shown that we make long lasting judgments about what a person is like in the first few seconds of meeting them, so we have to make sure that first impression is a good one. As in any social situation, the first opinions your boss and co-workers will make about you are most likely going to be based on your appearance, so take care to be clean and tidy, and to dress appropriately. Attitude is also very important. Arriving late on your first day will definitely create a bad impression, so plan your route in advance and allow enough time to get there comfortably without arriving looking flustered. You might feel nervous but try to appear confident. Smile and act friendly when you are introduced to people. Look interested and try to remember who they are and what they do. If you aren't good at remembering, take notes. Be careful though, the desire to make a good impression may make you want to overdo things when you start your new job, setting standards for yourself that you can't keep up, so pace yourself. Nobody expects you to be able to do it all on your first day. Above all, remember that you don't get a second chance to make a first impression, so make sure it is a good one.



Setting the Scene

1. Why do first impressions matter?
2. Why is it important to arrive on time on your first day of work?
3. What should and shouldn't you do during the first few weeks of work? Why?
4. Do you find that you make snap decisions about what people are like on their appearance?

First Impressions

1. Who are the characters in this story?
2. What is the relationship between these characters?
3. Where does this scene take place?
4. What is happening in this scene? Why?
5. What objects do you notice in the scene?
6. What did you find interesting or surprising about the scene?
7. What do you think the characters were doing before this scene?
8. What do you think happens next?
9. What do you think the main theme or the wider story of the movie might be about?
10. What is something in this scene that you can relate to or have experienced yourself?



Key Vocabulary

☐ down to	It's down to you and me now. There's no one else.
☐ What do you think?	What do you think about the movie?
☐ just love	I often go to Thai restaurants because I just love spicy food.
☐ be sorry	There's no need to be sorry .
☐ take credit for	She totally took credit for my idea! I'll never trust her again.
☐ don't ever	Don't ever do that again or you're fired.
☐ what a	What a beautiful day it is today. Let's go for a bike ride.
☐ What do you say...?	What do you say we find somewhere to eat? I'm hungry.
☐ figure out	We really need to figure it out before the boss comes back.
☐ the right to	You have no right to stop me from doing it.

Language Point

1. What is something you needed to figure out alone recently?
2. Have you figured out how to get an A in this class?
3. Have you figured out how to improve your English pronunciation?
4. What is something that you wish you had figured out earlier than you did?
5. When did you figure out how to...?

What happened?

1. What are they trying to decide on?
2. How many choices are there now?
3. Why does Rachel disagree with Kim?
4. What kind of person do you think Nancy is?
5. What does Rachel really think about working there?
6. Who smokes? How do you know?
7. What does Kim suggest they all do?
8. Does Rachel tell Kim what she really thinks about smoking? Why?
9. What does Rachel's dad do for a living?
10. What do you think Rachel's dad really told her?

Notes

Mini Dialog

Complete the dialog with words and phrases from the Key Vocabulary list

Abigail: Hi, Lauren. Welcome to the company. I'm Abigail. I shall be working with you for a few weeks till you get the hang of everything. _____ pleasure it is to have you on the team.

Lauren: Hi, Abigail. It's nice to meet you.

Abigail: I hear that Becky gave you the reports to work on. Can I see?

Lauren: Yes, here they are. _____?

Abigail: Oh, yes, these are good, but let me give you a bit of advice. Don't let Becky have them back. Give them to the boss yourself or Becky will _____ the _____ the work. She _____ to do that with new people.

Lauren: But it's my first day. The boss told me to give the report to Becky and I want to make a good impression. I want to show the boss what a good job I can do. She has no _____ to _____ the _____ my work.

Abigail: Well, it's up to you, but if you let her get away with it today, you'll _____ later on. _____ say I didn't warn you.

Lauren: Oh dear! I so wanted everyone to like me.

Abigail: Don't worry. _____ we go get a cup of coffee and try to _____ what to do?

Paraphrasing

Rewrite these sentences with phrases used in the dialog above

1. Well, it's your decision.

2. She'll let the boss think she did it so she gets all the thanks.

3. Shall we have a coffee while we decide what to do about it?

4. She shouldn't be allowed to make it look like it's her work.

5. I want the boss to be able to see how capable I am.

Ad-Lib the Scene

List the key events in the storyline and then ad-lib the scene

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Discuss the Issues

1. What kind of job are you hoping to get in the future?
2. Apart from a high salary, what else do you hope to gain from the job?
3. What work conditions do you hope your future job will provide?
4. What are some examples of undesirable work conditions?
5. What working conditions would you quit over?
6. What are some examples of dangerous workplaces?
7. What would you do if everyone else in the office at work smoked?
8. What work demands would make you quit your job?
9. What are some examples of unreasonable work demands a boss might make?
10. Would you work weekends if your boss asked you to?
11. What would you not do for your boss even if your job depended on it?
12. Do you think you have the qualities needed to be a fair and reasonable boss?
13. Describe the perfect boss.
14. If you were the boss, how would you treat your employees?



Matching

Connect the two parts of the sentences

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. What do you say... | a. ...the boss's new idea? |
| 2. What do you think about... | b. ...you don't grab this opportunity. |
| 3. You'll be sorry if... | c. ...we go to a movie tonight? |
| 4. I have a right to see my... | d. ...thing for him to do. |
| 5. What a dreadful... | e. ...own children sometimes. |



Conversation Jumble

Work with a partner and construct a conversation using the given words

- A: value / opinion / really / your / on / one / which / choose / to / I'd
B: this / what / say / blue / is / one / you / nice / do / ?
A: well / nice / it's / but / think / what / you / do / green / about / one / this / pretty / ?
B: green / blue / down / to / or / the / so / it's / the / ?
A: both / love / them / of / I / yes
B: choice / what / difficult / a
A: disagree / won't / I / you / with / there
B: know / you / be / won't / sorry / you / whichever / choose / you

Synonyms

Write a synonym for the given word to complete the sentence

1. You won't be _____ if you try it. I'm sure you'll love it. (regretful)
2. The curtains were made of a beautiful blue _____. (cloth)
3. If you never ask my _____ how will you know what I think? (view)
4. It was a _____ place to be. I really enjoyed being there. (amusing)
5. Let's take a _____ from it now and come back to it later. (rest)
6. I have to get a _____ to earn some money. (career)
7. I don't like watching _____ movies. They give me nightmares. (scary)
8. We _____ so much about everything that we are always fighting. (differ)
9. She _____ his belief that he was right to do it. (upheld)
10. I need to go _____ to get some fresh air. (outdoors)

Idioms Supplemental

get on the wrong side of (someone)

- ▶ to make someone dislike you
- ▶ to do something to offend someone

butter (someone) up

- ▶ to be very nice to someone because you want something
- ▶ to flatter or praise someone in order to get something

get off on the wrong foot

- ▶ to start off badly with someone
- ▶ to begin a relationship with some negativity

be in (someone's) good/bad books

- ▶ be in favor (or disfavor) with someone
- ▶ to be liked (or disliked) by someone for your actions

call in a favor

- ▶ to ask someone to return a favor
- ▶ to ask someone to do something for you in lieu of you having done something for them



Idioms Quiz

1. Be careful not to _____ the boss. He can be very spiteful.
2. Don't _____ him. He's got friends in high places!
3. Hi. Do you remember that favor you owe me? I need to ___ it ___.
4. I need a holiday – I'm going to _____ a few _____ and ask the others to cover for me.
5. I think we _____. Let's start over.
6. If you want a pay rise, you should _____ the boss.
7. I'm not ___ her _____ today – I messed up her report.
8. There is no point in trying to _____ me _____. The answer is still 'no'.
9. You _____ with him – he hates discussing office politics.
10. You're not ___ the boss's _____ today. You're late for work again.

Idioms Discussion

1. Have you ever gotten on the wrong side of someone unexpectedly? What happened?
2. When have you tried to butter someone up?
3. Have you ever gotten off on the wrong foot with someone you just met?
4. What is the best way to stay in the good books with your boss?
5. Have you ever called in a favor with a friend? What was the favor?



Get the complete book

English through Movies
Discussion & Role-Play

Level 3



Scan to view the book on Amazon

Explore more ESL Learning Press books and teaching resources

esllearningpress.com