

English through Movies

Discussion & Role-Play

Level 4

Michael Dyer

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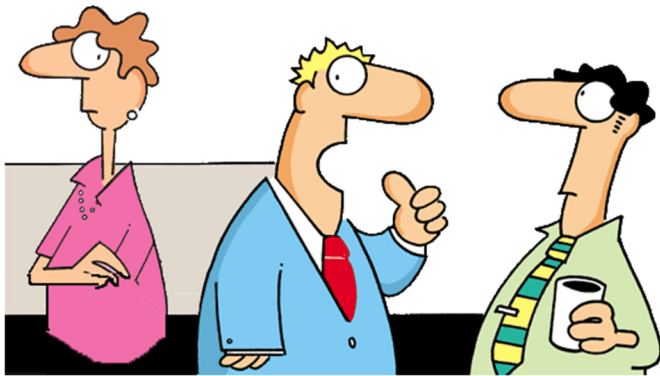
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Read and Discuss ▶

Betrayal can come from many sources and it can be devastating. Unfortunately betrayal is a common characteristic of human nature and anyone we know, including coworkers and close friends, may at some point come to betray us. Betrayal may come from anyone who envies or rivals us and that is motivated by greed or even by self-preservation. Often betrayal is obvious but the worst betrayal comes by surprise. In the workplace, when rivaling for the same promotion, for example, backstabbing and other forms of betrayal may not become apparent until it's too late and the position has been awarded to your rival. This kind of betrayal can be very hard to come to terms with and can leave us shell-shocked, shattering our assumptions about our once friend or trusted coworker. Whatever the cause or the source of betrayal, we may react to betrayal by experiencing a whirlwind of emotions from anger to fear to a sense of loss. It is important that you don't blame yourself. Accept your feelings of disappointment however, as feeling pain is part of the healing process. It is normal to want to retaliate and seek revenge for the hurt you have suffered, but revenge will not be to anyone's benefit. Instead, act with integrity. Sometimes it is better to just walk away. Don't dwell on the betrayal but try to forgive and learn from it.



Setting the Scene



1. Can you think of any examples of betrayal? What happened?
2. In what ways might a friend betray you?
3. What would you do if a friend betrayed you?
4. Why do you think that some people betray others at work?
5. Do you think that betrayal can be justified?

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

☐ honored	I'm honored to meet you. I'm a great fan of yours.
☐ be part of	I am extremely happy to be part of this project.
☐ ultimately	Ultimately , dinosaurs may have been killed off by tiny germs.
☐ mean it	Thank you for the compliment. Did you really mean it ?
☐ technical difficulty	It seems we are experiencing some technical difficulties .
☐ pull the plug	If the sales don't improve soon, the CEO may pull the plug .
☐ backstabber	He is always badmouthing people. He is a real backstabber .
☐ drenched	It must be really raining heavily out there. You look drenched .
☐ big deal	It's no big deal . I'll find a new job in no time.
☐ be on it	Don't worry. I'm on it . I'll take care of the problem right away.

Language Point

1. Who do you think is ultimately responsible for your university grades?
2. What kind of job do you hope to ultimately get?
3. Ultimately, what will happen if global warming continues at its current rate?
4. How much money do you think you ultimately need to retire these days?
5. Ultimately,...?

What happened?

1. Who is Evan replacing?
2. Did Evan write his own speech?
3. How does Evan describe the city of Buffalo?
4. Why does Bruce pause for so long before speaking?
5. Did Evan get the job of anchorman due to his talent?
6. How do you think Evan got the job over Bruce?
7. How does Bruce describe the unfairness of life?
8. What does Bruce compare his life to?
9. What are the studio staff scrambling to do?
10. What happens when Bruce goes back to the studio?

Notes

Mini Dialog

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

Becky: Hey, you guys! Congratulate me. It's official. I'm heading up the new project.

Lauren: What? You told everyone you didn't want to _____ it. You said you'd speak to Mr. Ford about giving the project to me!

Becky: Yeah, I did, but I didn't _____. So what?

Lauren: You _____! You knew I wanted that job. That project should have been mine.

Becky: Why are you making such a fuss? You should feel _____ that I'll let you assist me with it – if you're really good.

Lauren: You won't get away with this. I'm going to _____ on your little game.

Becky: _____! What are you going to do about it?

Lauren: I'm going to see Mr. Ford right now and tell him just what you're like. I'm going to tell him all about how you take the credit for other people's work.

Becky: Well, there might be some _____ in doing that. Mr. Ford has gone away for a few days and left me in charge. _____, I'm your boss for now so you'd better all get back to work.

Paraphrasing

Rewrite these sentences with phrases used in the dialog above

1. You might have a problem with that because he isn't here.

2. I said one thing but meant another.

3. I'm going to put a stop to this.

4. You said you would help me to get the job because you didn't want it yourself.

5. That wasn't very nice of you. I wanted that job.

Ad-Lib the Scene

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

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Discuss the Issues

1. What is betrayal and what are other words for it?
2. Define envy and rivalry.
3. How are rivalry and betrayal related?
4. How can rivalry lead to betrayal?
5. How can envy lead to betrayal?
6. What are some other phrases used to describe backstabbing?
7. Is it betrayal if people who are not friends or coworkers backstab each other?
8. What other forms of betrayal are there?
9. How is each of the following betrayal?
 - badmouthing a friend
 - lying to a friend
 - telling someone a secret
 - breaking a promise
 - taking a job your friend wanted
10. What examples of political betrayal have there been in history or recent news?
11. Has someone you thought was a friend ever backstabbed you?
12. When was the last time you felt betrayed?



Matching

Connect the two parts of the sentences

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. I got drenched when... | a. ...achieve the best results. |
| 2. Ultimately, I want to... | b. ...such a great team. |
| 3. I want to be part of... | c. ...if you would be my wife. |
| 4. Technical difficulties meant... | d. ...that the job couldn't be finished. |
| 5. I would be honored... | e. ...he splashed me. |



Conversation Jumble

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

- A: board / we'd / with / like / on / us / you / to / have
- B: well / talk / you / with / I'd / to / that / like / a / have / about
- A: problem / the / what's / ?
- B: talk / hear / there's / I / project / about / with / difficulties / the / been / technical
- A: on / that's / it / why / you / want / we
- B: so / not / plug / pull / you're / going / the / it / on / to / ?
- A: no / talent / with / won't / it / your / problem / be / a
- B: part / then / I'd / be / honored / of / be / a / it / to

Synonyms

Write a synonym for the given word to complete the sentence

1. We experienced several _____ and had to abandon the project. (problems)
2. I forgot my umbrella and arrived at work _____. (soaked)
3. The _____ is not working on my TV. I can see the picture OK though. (sound)
4. _____ the ball to me and I will try to catch it. (toss)
5. _____, there is no better meal than a home-cooked one. (in the end)
6. I feel extremely _____ to meet you. I am a great fan of yours. (privileged)
7. I love coffee with cinnamon _____ on it. (scattered)
8. Bees are very _____ creatures. (industrious)
9. He was so good at his job that they wouldn't _____ him with anyone else. (swap)
10. The kind of _____ you possess is not common. You should become a singer. (skill)

Idioms Supplemental

betray (someone or a secret)

- ▶ to be disloyal to someone
- ▶ to reveal a secret someone confided in you

double cross (someone)

- ▶ to betray or swindle a colleague
- ▶ to say you will do one thing but actually do another

sell (someone) **down the river**

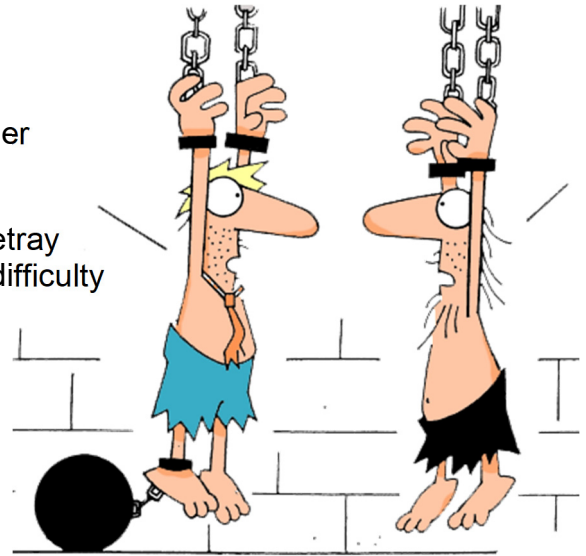
- ▶ to pretend to be loyal and to later deceive and betray
- ▶ to take advantage of someone and cause them difficulty

sell (someone) **out**

- ▶ to betray someone
- ▶ to reveal damaging information about someone

feel hard done-by

- ▶ to feel you have been treated unfairly
- ▶ to feel taken advantage of



Idioms Quiz

1. Bill ____ Bob ____ and told the police everything he knew about Bob.
2. I ____ because I work so hard and get paid so little.
3. I told my colleague I wanted the job and he ____ me by applying for it too.
4. I won't help you cheat on the test because I'm afraid you'll ____ me ____ later.
5. I ____ because I look after the kids all week while my husband goes out.
6. My friend asked me to write his report but ____ me ____ by telling everyone.
7. She ____ the secret I told her to all her friends.
8. The spy ____ his country by selling off military secrets.
9. You said you'd help me get the job but took it for yourself! You ____ me!
10. You'll be sorry if you ____ me ____ . I'll tell the police you were involved too.

Idioms Discussion

1. Has anyone ever betrayed a secret you told them?
2. Who has double-crossed you by pretending to help you but did it for their own good?
3. Has anyone asked you to do something you shouldn't and then sold you down the river?
4. Can you think of a movie where one crook sold out the other members of his gang?
5. When have you felt a little hard done by?



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