

English through Movies

Discussion & Role-Play

Level 5

Michael Dyer

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Unit Topic	TV Series	Episode	
1. Panic and Preparedness	The Office	Season 5, Episode 13	1
2. Truth and Betrayal	The Crown	Season 3, Episode 1	7
3. Logic vs. Emotion	Sherlock: I am Sherlocked	Season 2, Episode 1	13
4. Love and Commitment	Parks and Recreation	Season 5, Episode 14	19
5. Truth and Justice	Presumed Innocent	Season 1, Episode 1	25
6. Reality and Identity	Westworld	Season 1, Episode 10	31
7. Toxic Relationships	You	Season 3, Episode 10	37
8. Changing Perspective	The Newsroom	Season 1, Episode 1	43
9. Speaking the Truth	Succession	Season 3, Episode 9	49
10. An Existential Crisis	The Good Place	Season 3, Episode 4	55
11. Hidden Emotions	Motherland	Season 2, Episode 7	61
12. Power and Tough Choices	The Diplomat	Season 1, Episode 8	67

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Read and Discuss ▶

Everyone faces unexpected problems. A fire alarm sounds in a crowded building. A friend suddenly collapses. A car accident blocks the road ahead. In these moments, people often panic. Their hearts beat faster, their hands shake, and they cannot think clearly. However, staying calm during an emergency can save lives. When we control our emotions and focus on solutions, we make better decisions and help others around us. In 2009, US Airways Flight 1549 lost both engines after hitting birds shortly after takeoff from New York. Captain Chesley Sullenberger had less than four minutes to decide what to do. Instead of panicking, he stayed focused and landed the plane safely on the Hudson River. All 155 people survived because the captain remained calm under extreme pressure. His clear thinking and steady actions turned a potential disaster into a miracle. Learning to manage stress in dangerous situations is a valuable skill for everyone. Students should know how to respond when emergencies happen at school or in public places. Workers need these abilities to handle workplace accidents. Even in everyday life, remaining composed during crises helps us protect ourselves and assist others effectively. By understanding how our bodies and minds react to danger, we can train ourselves to calmly make the right choices when seconds matter.



Setting the Scene

1. Have you ever been in a dangerous situation?
2. How do you react in an emergency?
3. Would you panic if there was an emergency like a fire?
4. How can people stay calm under pressure?
5. Do you think safety drills are important?

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 series might be about?
10. What is something in this scene that you can relate to or have experienced yourself?



Key Vocabulary

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ fire drill | The company held a fire drill to practice safety procedures. |
| ☐ procedure | Everyone must follow the correct procedure in an emergency. |
| ☐ viable option | That idea is not a viable option for our problem. |
| ☐ adrenaline | His body was full of adrenaline after the sudden shock. |
| ☐ simulation | The team ran a simulation of a real disaster scenario. |
| ☐ preparedness | Good preparedness can save lives in dangerous situations. |
| ☐ emergency | The emergency exit should always be clear. |
| ☐ employee | All employees must attend the safety meeting. |
| ☐ bunching | People were bunching together near the door. |
| ☐ surge | A surge of excitement filled the crowd when the concert began. |

Language Point

1. What is a viable option for learning a new language quickly?
2. Can working from home be a viable option for most jobs?
3. If you lost your wallet, what would be a viable option to get home?
4. Is solar energy a viable option for replacing fossil fuels?
5. A viable option for traveling cheaply is...

What happened?

1. What does Dwight say is the best way to learn?
2. What does Dwight do to start the fire drill?
3. Why does Dwight say they should not assume the fire is in the hallway?
4. How does Michael react when the fire drill starts?
5. What does Dwight tell the employees to do when they are trapped?
6. What does Angela do to try to save her cat?
7. What does Kevin do instead of trying to escape?
8. How does Dwight end the fire drill?
9. What happens to Stanley at the end of the drill?
10. What does Michael try to do to "help" Stanley?

Notes

Mini Dialog

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

Alex: That _____ was intense! My heart was racing from the _____ rush.

Jamie: I know! Even though it was just a _____, it really felt real. That's why these drills are so important for _____.

Alex: Yeah, but there was a problem. People started _____ near the main exit. In a real _____, that could slow everyone down.

Jamie: I noticed that too. We need a better _____ to avoid a _____ of people trying to get out all at once.

Alex: Maybe staggering the exit times would help. It seems like a _____ to keep people moving safely.

Jamie: That makes sense. Every _____ should know exactly where to go. Some people looked confused.

Alex: Right. If this had been real, confusion could have been dangerous. _____ means planning ahead.

Jamie: I'll bring it up at the next safety meeting. A few small changes could make a big difference.

Alex: Agreed. Better to fix it now than to have problems later!

Paraphrasing

Rewrite these sentences with phrases used in the dialog above

1. The drill was overwhelming, and my pulse was pounding.

2. Employees seemed unsure about where they needed to go.

3. We should improve the evacuation process to prevent overcrowding.

4. If this were real, confusion could have put people in danger.

5. Spreading out exit times could help keep things organized.

Ad-Lib the Scene

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

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-
-

Discuss the Issues

1. What do you think causes people to panic in a crisis?
2. What are some common mistakes people make in emergencies?
3. How can schools and workplaces improve their emergency preparedness?
4. Do you think fear is helpful or harmful in dangerous situations? Why?
5. How can technology help people respond better in crisis situations?
6. What kind of emergency situations do you worry about the most?
7. Have you ever participated in an emergency drill? What did you learn?
8. How would you help a friend who was panicking in a crisis?
9. What is the most important thing to remember in an emergency?
10. Why do some people freeze instead of taking action during emergencies?
11. What are some good habits to develop for staying safe in a crisis?
12. How can teamwork improve survival in dangerous situations?



Matching

Connect the two parts of the sentences

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. We had a fire drill... | a. ...so real that I almost believed it. |
| 2. The best procedure... | b. ...is to exit calmly in an emergency. |
| 3. Using the elevator... | c. ...to practice safety in case of danger. |
| 4. My adrenaline increased... | d. ...when the alarm suddenly rang. |
| 5. The simulation looked... | e. ...is not a viable option. |



Conversation Jumble

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

- A: fire / was / chaotic / bunching / the / exit / near / started / everyone / drill / that
- B: I / it / move / impossible / know / that / made / of / surge / people / to
- A: to / procedure / more / better / organized / keep / need / a / things / we
- B: staggering / a / viable / option / times / exit / would / maybe / be
- A: feel / adrenaline / could / get / the / while / trying / I / rush / to / out
- B: me / real / too / a / even / though / was / just / it / felt / simulation / it
- A: had / some / hurt / if / this / could / been / have / employees / been / real
- B: handling / the / key / to / exactly / is / preparedness / emergency / an

Synonyms

Write a synonym for the given word to complete the sentence

1. He packed some ____ for the hiking trip as a quick snack. (dried meat)
2. Students quickly walked through the ____ to get to their next class. (corridor)
3. The technician checked the air ____ for any blockages. (vent)
4. She grabbed the ____ and pulled the door open. (knob)
5. He wiped the spilled coffee with an old ____ from the counter. (cloth)
6. I need to ____ the worn-out tires on my car. (change)
7. The restaurant offers a wide ____ of desserts. (choice)
8. Officers used a ____ to break down the locked door. (heavy hammer)
9. A loud noise grabbed everyone's ____ immediately. (focus)
10. The fire drill served as a ____, not a real emergency. (drill)

Idioms Supplemental

keep a cool head

- ▶ to stay calm in a difficult situation
- ▶ to think clearly despite stress or pressure

run around like a headless chicken

- ▶ to act in a frantic and unorganized way
- ▶ to be panicked and not know what to do

lose one's nerve

- ▶ to become too scared to act
- ▶ to hesitate because of fear or anxiety

blow things out of proportion

- ▶ to overreact to a situation.
- ▶ to see something as worse than it actually is

think on one's feet

- ▶ to make quick and smart decisions
- ▶ to react effectively in a fast-changing situation



Idioms Quiz

1. She tried to _____, even though the situation was dangerous.
2. He always _____ his _____ when he has to speak in front of a crowd.
3. During the emergency, he had to _____ his _____ and find a safe exit.
4. The children were running around _____ when the alarm went off.
5. If you _____, you'll only make yourself more anxious.
6. The firefighter knew how to _____ in a crisis.
7. When the lights went out, she _____ her _____ and froze in fear.
8. Instead of panicking, you need to _____ your _____ and find a solution.
9. The media tends to _____ and create unnecessary fear.
10. When the fire alarm rang, people started running around _____.

Idioms Discussion

1. Have you ever been in a crisis where you had to keep a cool head? What happened?
2. Why do some people run around like headless chickens in emergencies while others stay calm?
3. Can you think of a time when you lost your nerve and regretted it later?
4. Why do people sometimes blow things out of proportion instead of staying calm?
5. What are some jobs that require people to think on their feet under pressure?



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