Movies & Languages 2017-2018

La La Land

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Damien Chazelle
YEAR/COUNTRY	2016 / USA
GENRE	Romantic Comedy, Musical
ACTORS	Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone, John Legend, Jason Fuchs, J. K: Simmons

PLOT

In Los Angeles, Mia and Sebastian are struggling to make it in their respective careers, about which each has a passion. Mia is an actress who dropped out of college and moved from a small town five years ago to pursue her dream. She is enamored with old-time Hollywood but is not fond of some of the pressures of auditions and attendance at social events required to get ahead in the business. Sebastian is a traditional jazz pianist and would like to do his part to preserve that tradition, especially as he knows that style of music is dying. He dreams of opening his own jazz club in what used to be a famous L.A. jazz club that has since been converted to a tapas-bar-salsa-dance club.

Partly because of their individual struggles and partly because of the situations, their first few chance meetings are antagonistic. But they eventually become attracted to each other largely because of the passion for their dreams that they see in each other. But there are many obstacles to a happily-ever-after. They may be able to endure the struggling-artist life for so long before those struggles take their toll. The pursuit of their individual dreams may take all their energies with nothing left for their relationship. And any compromise each may make in getting ahead may change the person with whom each has fallen in love.

"La La Land" was praised especially for Chazelle's screenplay and direction, Gosling's and Stone's performances, and received 14 nominations at the 89th Academy Awards, including Best Picture.

The film's title refers simultaneously to the city of Los Angeles (L.A.) and the idiom (la la land) a place out of touch with reality.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

Tense Changes in Reported Speech

We often tell people what other people have said. This is called reported or indirect speech. We rarely try to report the exact words that someone says.

When the verb tense changes it "moves back in time".

Actual words	Report (indirect speech)
"**I work** at FOX	**Mia** said she **worked** for FOX
"**I've worked** for MGM"	**Mia** said she **had worked** for MGM
"**I've been working** for MTV."	**Seb** said he **had been working** for MTV
"**I worked** for IBM."	**Mia** said she **had worked** for IBM
"**I had worked** for MTV"	**Seb** said he **had worked** for MTV
"**I'm going to work** for CNN"	**Mia** said **she was going to work** for FOX
"**I can/will/may work** for Mia"	**Seb** said he **could/would/might work** for Mia

There is no change for **must, might, could, should, would**.

There is no change for the past perfect (**had worked**).

VOCABULARY

Let you down: disappoint you	**Enamored**: fond of or delighted
Nickel: five cents	**It's on us**: we're paying
Casting call: invitation to an audition	**Tow Away Zone**: a place where it is forbidden to park
Sneaking: moving in a deceptive or secret way	**Hermit**: a person who withdraws from society and lives completely alone
Shanghaid: to trick or force somebody into doing something	**Ripped off**: to be cheated or robbed
A little curt: rudely brief	**A knack for**: special skill or ability for a specific task
We've got no shot at it: small hope of realizing some objective	**Child prodigy**: a child with unusual talents or qualities
On the ropes: in a desperate situation	**A lot of buzz**: a lot of talk, gossip, rumors
Seb: shortened version of the name Sebastian	**Greyhound Station**: station stop for city to city busses travelling in the United States
Not on my watch: it will not happen while I'm in charge or have responsibility	**A little tricky**: slightly more difficult than imagined
A pain in the ass: an irritating person	**A gig**: an engagement to play jazz or pop music, especially for a single night
Pipe-dream: hope or plan that is impossible or unworkable	**Callback**: an invitation to return after an audition
Keys: a pianist or keyboard player	**Long haul**: long time
Cherubic: sweet, angelic looking child	**Mojo**: magic, influence

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