

Movies & Languages 2013-2014

J. Edgar



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Clint Eastwood
YEAR / COUNTRY	2011/ USA
GENRE	Biography, Crime, Drama
ACTORS	Leonardo DiCaprio, Armie Hammer, Naomi Watts, Josh Lucas, Judi Dench

PLOT

This film is a biopic of J. Edgar Hoover told by Hoover as he recalls his career in the FBI for a biography. Early on and throughout his career Hoover was fixated on Communists, anarchists and any other revolutionary taking action against the U.S. Government. He slowly builds the agency's reputation and, at the same time, his personal power. One of the key persons he hires in the early days is Clyde Tolson who is quickly promoted to Assistant Director and would be Hoover's trusted confidant and companion for the rest of Hoover's life. Hoover's depiction of his career have him playing a larger than life role in some of the biggest cases in FBI history. The films also reveals Hoover's adeptness at manipulating the various politicians he worked with over his career, thanks for the most part to his secret files. Although Leonardo DiCaprio won critical praise, the film was only mildly popular with critics and with audiences in general.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

GRAMMAR

The Causative

The causative is similar to the passive. We focus on what is done to something or someone, not on what someone does.

The causative is formed with **have + object + past participle**. Here are some examples:

Tenses

present	We have our house decorated every year We are having our house decorated soon
past	We had our house decorated last year
past perfect	We have just had our house decorated
future	We will have our house decorated next year We we'll be having our house decorated next year
modals	We may have our house decorated next year We may be having our house decorated soon

VOCABULARY

Biopic: a film that tells the story of someone's life	FBI: Federal Bureau of Investigation, police agency in the USA
What's at stake: important consequences or outcomes	Get the better of: overcome
Squabble: to quarrel about something not very important	Hodgepodge: a confused or disordered mixture of different things
Where this is headed: where this is going to end up	Pull over: moving a motor vehicle to the side of the road and stopping
Copper: slang word for policeman	Hoodlums: a violent criminal
Creed: a belief	Fussy: very much concerned with unimportant details
Don't wilt!: be strong!	G-men: government agents, usually police
A little camp for me: a little gay for me	Not much for the spotlight: to not like public attention
Armistice Day: a celebration for the end of world war I, November 11, also known as Veterans Day	Go-between: intermediary, emissary
Take them down: reduce in importance, humiliate	Quaker: a member of a Christian group called the Society of Friends
PR: public relations	Cuff somebody: to put handcuffs on somebody during an arrest