Movies & Languages 2016-2017

The Martian

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Ridley Scott
YEAR / COUNTRY	2015 / USA
GENRE	Science fiction / Adventure / Drama
ACTORS	Matt Damon, Jessica Chastain, Kristen Wiig, Mackenzie Davis, Kate Mara
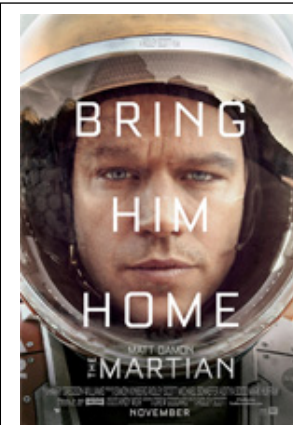
PLOT

During a mission to Mars, a team of astronauts is hit by an unpredicted storm and has to abort the mission and return to earth. In the ensuing chaos of the evacuation one of the crew members, Mark Watney, is hit by a projectile due to the storm and is swept away and lost from the crew by the force of the winds. The crew is forced to leave him, thinking he died due to a rupture in his space suit. However, Mark survives and now has to find ingenious ways to make it till the next scheduled Mars mission, four years later, with the remaining meagre supplies. Being a botanist, he manages to cultivate food and survives by scavenging parts from previous missions eventually finding a way to communicate with NASA. NASA attempts a daring, dangerous, maybe impossible rescue mission to bring him back involving his crewmates. As these stories of incredible bravery unfold the world comes together to support the safe return of "The Martian".

LANGUAGE

Standard American English, some Chinese.

GRAMMAR

QUESTION TAGS
Question tags consist of an auxiliary verb and a personal pronoun. There are a few basic rules:

1. If there is an auxiliary **(do, be, have)** or modal auxiliary verb in the main clause, it is repeated in the question tag. For example:

   *He hasn't eaten yet, **has he?***
   *She should be in bed by now, **shouldn't she?***

2. If there is an ordinary verb in the main clause, **do** is in the question tag. For example:

   *You know how to speak English, **don't you?** (Present)*
   *They went to California last year, **didn't they?** (Past)*
   *He had a heart attack last year, **didn't he?** (Past – have as ordinary verb)*

3. Normally an affirmative statement has a negative question tag and vice versa. For example:

   *You're coming, **aren't you?***
   *He doesn't like jazz, **does he?***

4. I am is followed by the question tag **aren't I?** For example: *I'm stupid, **aren't I?***

5. After an imperative, **will you?** or **would you?** are the most common forms. **Will you?** Is the only form possible after a negative imperative. For example:

    *Pay attention, **will you?***   *Don't be late, **will you?***
    *Shut the door, **would you?***

6. Negative expressions like **no, nothing, nowhere and nobody** in the main clause are followed by affirmative question tag. For example:

    *He takes no interest in his studies, **does he?***

7   **Somebody/ someone, everybody/ everyone and nobody/ no-one** are followed by **they** in a question tag. For example.

    *Nobody called, **did they?***
    *Everybody was happy, **weren't they?***

8. **Nothing/ anything** in the main clause is followed by **it** in a question tag. For example:

    *Nothing could be finer, **could it?***
    *Anything could happen now, **couldn't it?***

VOCABULARY

MAV: Mars ascent vehicle	**VAL:** vehicular air lock
HAB: Mars lander habitat	**Sol:** solar day on Mars – 24 hours+39 minutes
EVA: Extra Vehicular Activity spacesuit worn by astronauts when they leave the HAB	**Airlock:** an airtight chamber located between two areas of unequal pressure
JPL: Jet Propulsion Laboratory	**PR:** public relations
A breach: a rip, a hole a tear in something	**L.O.S.:** loss of signal, line of sight
Telemetry: automatic measurement and wireless transmission of data from remote sources	**MDV:** Mars descent vehicle
C.N.S.A.: China National Space Administration	**SAF CON:** technology company working with NASA
Pathfinder: unmanned lander spacecraft sent to Mars in 1996	**Here's the rub:** here's the problem, difficulty
It's moot: it's a matter of uncertainty	**Science the shit out of this:** use science and technology to solve the problem
RTG: Radioisotope Thermal Generator, an electrical generator which converts heat released by decaying radioactive material	**Phobos:** one of Mars moons, used by Watney for navigation
Hexadecimal system: a positional numeral system widely used in mathematics and computing	**To soldier forth:** to continue doing something even though it's difficult