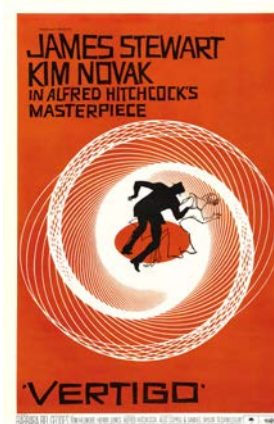


Movies & Languages 2017-2018

Vertigo

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Alfred Hitchcock
YEAR / COUNTRY	1958 / USA
GENRE	Drama, Thriller
ACTORS	Kim Novak, James Stewart, Tom Helmore, Henry Jones, Barbara Bel Geddes



PLOT

John Ferguson (Scottie) a retired San Francisco Detective who suffers from Acrophobia accepts a job from a wealthy shipbuilder, a friend from College, to follow his wife as he believes she is going insane, possessed by a deceased ancestor and contemplating suicide. Scottie is sceptical, but agrees unaware of the beautiful intrigue he is about to become involved in with the beautiful Madeleine.

Vertigo received mixed reviews upon initial release, but is now often cited as a classic Hitchcock film and one of the defining works of his career. In certain polls by movie critics it is considered one of the best films ever made.

In 1996, the film underwent a major restoration to enhance the colour and soundtrack, which had deteriorated through the years.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

GRAMMAR

As and Like

1. Similarity

We can use **like** or **as** to say things that are similar.

a. **Like** is a preposition. We use **like** before a noun or pronoun:

You look **like** your sister.

He ran **like** the wind.

She's dressed **like** me.

We also use **like** to give examples:

He's good at some subjects, **like** mathematics.

In mountainous countries, **like** Switzerland.

b. **As** is a conjunction. We use **as** before a clause, and before an expression beginning with a preposition:

Nobody knows her **as** I do.

We often drink tea with the meal, **as** they do in China.

On Friday, **as** on Tuesday, the meeting will be at 8:30pm.

2. **Function**

We use **as**, not **like**, to say what function a person or thing has, what jobs people do, what things are used for, etc.:

He worked **as** a waiter for two years.

Please don't use your plate **as** an ashtray.

VOCABULARY

Vertigo: dizziness suffered from high places	Skid Row: slum area
So motherly: very maternal	This is a cinch: something easily done
Do it by yourself: doing something without the aid of others	Dull: boring
Making it up: fabricating reality	Waste of time: not worth the effort
To wander: to go from place to another with no special purpose	Gravestone: a stone on the top of a grave
Chuckling: to laugh quietly or to oneself	Livery stable: a place for horses
Footsteps: sounds made when people walk	Will it fit?: Is it the right size?
Corset: close fitting undergarment, worn to shape the body, or support it in case of injury	On the bum: broke, without money
To lick it: to defeat it, to overcome something	Isn't my line: Isn't my job
A cinch: easy to do or understand	The setup: the plan
Chatter: talk quickly and continuously about unimportant matter	Terrible bother: terrible annoyance
Pick up: get to know somebody casually and informally	Crack up: go insane
Doohickey: thing	Gee whiz: expression used for surprise or admiration