

Movies & Languages 2017-2018

Dunkirk

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Christopher Nolan
YEAR/COUNTRY	2017 / USA, UK, France
GENRE	War/Action/History/Drama
ACTORS	Harry Styles, Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy, Mark Rylance, Kenneth Branagh, Fionn Whitehead, Damien Barnard



PLOT

“Dunkirk” is a war film written, directed, and co-produced by Christopher Nolan that depicts the dramatic and true story of the Dunkirk evacuations in May/June 1940, at the beginning of World War II.

400,000 British and French soldiers are trapped in the French port town of Dunkirk by the German army. The only way out is by sea and the Germans have the air power to bomb the British soldiers and ships without much opposition. The issue with Dunkirk is that there is only one dock the ships can access, which needs to be protected from enemy bombs. The situation looks hopeless and time is running short. Improvising a partial solution, Winston Churchill, newly elected, has put out a call for civilian boats to head to Dunkirk both to transport supplies and to transport soldiers from the beach to the British ships or back to Britain if it is at all possible. At the end of this historic mission, 330,000 British, French, Belgian and Dutch soldiers were safely evacuated. This is that story, seen through the eyes of a soldier amongst those trapped forces, two RAF Spitfire pilots, and a group of civilians on their private boat on their way to the evacuation.

For the upcoming 90th Academy Awards, “Dunkirk” received eight nominations, including Best Picture and Best Director for Nolan, his first ever Oscar nomination for directing.

LANGUAGE

English, some French.

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

Indistinctly, indistinct: unclear, vague	Grenadiers: a British infantry regiment, soldiers who specialize in throwing grenades (hand-bombs)
Mole: stone wall built from the shore into the sea as a breakwater or causeway or potential docking area for ships or boats	She's going down: the ship is sinking
Stretcher: framework of poles and canvas for carrying sick or injured people	Stern: back end of a ship or boat
Warrant officer: non-commissioned officer of the highest grade	Highlanders: Scottish soldiers
Spitfire: British single seat fighter aircraft	Sitting ducks: easy targets
Like fish in a barrel: very vulnerable, easy prey	To ditch a plane: to land a damaged aircraft in water
A frog: offensive term used for French person	Trawler: a fishing boat
To be spooked: to be afraid of something	To scarper: to run away
The tide's turning: the sea tide is coming in or going out	Daft: crazy or nonsensical
RAF: Royal Air Force	U-Boat: German submarine
Destroyer: type of warship	Turning tail: retreating
Shell shocked: traumatized psychologically experience in battle	Bloody: a word used to emphasize an angry statement
Strip her (boat): unload the boat of all unnecessary items in order to decrease weight and increase available space	