

Movies & Languages 2015-2016

The Judge



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	David Dobkin
YEAR / COUNTRY	2014 / USA
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Robert Downey Jr., Robert Duvall, Billy Bob Thornton, Vera Farmiga

PLOT

Hank Palmer, a brilliant, unscrupulous Chicago defense attorney who excels at getting rich - sometimes criminal - clients out of legal trouble, is preparing to end his marriage when he receives news of his mother's death. Reluctantly he goes home to Carlinville, a small Indiana town he had left years before and never wanted to go back to because of problems he had had with his father, **Judge Joseph Palmer**. His arrival triggers renewed tension between himself and his father, who makes no secret of his disapproval of Hank's morally ambiguous career.

As Hank prepares to head back to Chicago, his father is arrested for a hit-and-run death. Hank takes on his father's defense with interesting surprises.

Robert Duvall received multiple award nominations for his performance as Judge Joseph Palmer, including the Academy Award, Golden Globe Award, Screen Actors Guild Award and Satellite Award for Best Supporting Actor.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

GRAMMAR

Relative Clauses

Relative clauses are short phrases beginning with words like *who*, *which*, *that* and *whose* that define or describe people and things. There are two types:

1) Defining relative clauses define or differentiate the person or thing they refer to. They have the following forms:

◦ *who*, *whom*, *which*, or *that*

For people both *who* and *that* are used, but *who* is more common. For things or ideas both *which* and *that* are used, but *that* is more common, especially in speech.

*Sam is the person **who** has the most experience.*

*I know some people **that** can help you.*

◦ No pronoun (if the object of the verb is in the clause)

*The students (**whom**) we saw were studying.*

*The salad (**that**) I had for lunch was tasty.*

◦ *whose*

*The United Nations is an organization **whose** policies change quite slowly.*

2) Non-defining relative clauses only give extra information and do not define what they refer to. The relative pronoun must be kept: it cannot be left out. They have the following forms:

° *who, which, whom, whose*

That is never used in a non-defining relative clause.

*The salad, **which** had avocado in it, was superb.*

*The Professor, **whom/who** the students know well, said the computer was working fine.*

° We usually use commas to separate a non-defining relative clause from the rest of the sentence.

VOCABULARY

dimwit: someone who is ignorant and stupid	hide the pickle: hiding sexual betrayal
bang it out yourself: fix or repair it yourself	sowing sawdust: doing something insignificant
bit of a pickle: a big problem	comfy: comfortable
touchy subject: delicate thing to talk about	fell off the wagon: when a sober person begins drinking alcohol again
turned off: stopped	Like a Picasso painting: abstract, confused
If this goes south: if this goes wrong	juded me: betrayed me
right along: soon, quickly	first degree murder: premeditated, planned homicide
pitch them: promote, or convince someone of your idea	hit and run: hitting someone with a motor vehicle and fleeing the scene
burden of proof: evidence for determining a legal case	fish hooked into something: either through circumstance or deception, engaged in some activity, sometimes not wilfully
bailiff: a sheriff's deputy or court officer who keeps order in a courtroom	