

Movies & Languages 2013-2014

Argo



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Ben Affleck
YEAR / COUNTRY	2012 USA
GENRE	Drama-History
ACTORS	Ben Affleck, Bryan Cranston, John Goodman, Alan Arkin

PLOT

In 1979, the American embassy in Iran was invaded by Iranian revolutionaries and several Americans were taken hostage. However, six managed to escape to the official residence of the Canadian Ambassador and the CIA was eventually ordered to get them out of the country. With very few options, CIA agent Tony Mendez devised a daring plan: he created a fake Canadian film project using Iran as a filming location and smuggling the Americans out as its production crew. With the help of some trusted Hollywood contacts, Mendez created the deception and went to Iran to carry out his plans. However time was running out as Iranian forces were finding out the truth about the escaped hostages.

The film has been criticized for not being historically accurate in all details, but Affleck reminds us that the story is “based on history” and is not meant to be identical to what actually happened.

Argo received seven nominations for the 85th Academy Awards and won three, including best picture.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English, Farsi (Persian, Iranian)

GRAMMAR

Short Answers

1. When we answer yes/no questions, we often repeat the subject and auxiliary verb of the question:

Ex: “**Can he swim?**” “**Yes, he can**” “**Has it stopped raining?**” “**No, it hasn't**”

2. Be and have can be used in short answers:

Ex: “**Are you happy?**” “**Yes, I am**” “**Have you a light?**” “**Yes I have**”

3. We can also use short answers in replies to statements, requests and orders:

Ex: “**You'll be on holiday soon**” “**Yes, I will**” “**You're late**” “**No, I'm not**”

“**Don't forget to phone**” “**I won't**”

4. We use do and did in short answers to sentences with no auxiliary verb:

Ex: “**She likes cakes**” “**Yes, she does**”

“**That surprised you**” “**It certainly did**”

VOCABULARY

Savak: secret Iranian military police	NGOs: non-governmental officials
“We should all split”: we should all try to escape, leave	Creds: official credentials
Fall back: retreat	Act like a big shot: act as someone important
Komiteh: followers of Khomeini	Got bad cards: had bad luck
Shredder: a machine that cuts documents into tiny pieces	State (noun): the government
Score settling: getting revenge	Op: operations
To stay pat: to not change your decision or idea	To bullshit: to say deceptive things
Argo: name of fake science-fiction film	Send in a Moses: to send someone to rescue and lead people away from a trapped situation
Pricks: stupid, annoying persons	Script: written version of a play or film
Mug book: book of photos, usually of criminal suspects	Kangaroo court: a court in which the principles of law and justice are perverted or disregarded