

▣ ABOUT THE MOVIE ▣ (subtitled version)



TITLE	Bend it like Beckham
DIRECTOR	Gurinder Chadha
YEAR AND COUNTRY	2002 Germany, Great Britain, U.S.A.
GENRE	Comedy
ACTORS	Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightly, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers

PLOT

Jess is eighteen, plays football and dreams of becoming a soccer star like David Beckham, the great British champion. But there's a problem, she's a girl and what's more, comes from an Indian family so her family has very different plans for her. Nonetheless, whenever she can, she plays football in the park with the boys from her neighborhood until she meets Jules, a blond girl of her age who gets her to join the local women's team.

Naturally she comes into conflict with the Indian traditions of her family and has to resort to all kinds of tricks to be able to play. Some hilarious situations result and it becomes a comedy of errors when, for example, her sister's future in-laws see her giving a hug to Jules (who has short hair) and want to call off their son's marriage because they think Jess was kissing a white man in public!

This exceptional comedy succeeds in dealing with complex themes like generational and cultural conflict and makes good-natured, ironic fun of various prejudices which are still widespread, like those against people of a different race, color, nationality, or sexual choice.

In an interview, the director said that the title of the movie gives us a hint as to how to get around the various problems posed by differences: Don't be rigid, but bend your ideas like Beckham manages to bend the ball's trajectory (something he was famous for) so that it goes around the goalkeeper and scores.

LANGUAGE

Middle class English, Indian and Irish accents and language. Whether from Indian or English backgrounds, the young people in the film use the scurrilous expressions typical of their generation. There is a definite difference in accents between the older and younger Indians, the former are conspicuously foreign, the latter typically English.

The names for the food are Indian, and some exchanges are in the Punjabi language.

VOCABULARY

The missing piece of the jigsaw puzzle: (in this context) the player needed to complete a championship team	Shag: make love to
Dowry suits: clothes traditionally put aside for a bride to wear after she is married. A dowry usually included money and household linens as well.	get off someone's back: stop bothering someone
Cleavage: the cleft between a woman's breasts	Be over the moon: be very happy, pleased about something.
Gel bra: a brassiere with padding to make a woman's cleavage more prominent	That's bollocks: that's nonsense.
Prissy: affected	Those mosquito bites will look like juicy mangoes: Those tiny breasts will seem huge
He's just my mate, we're not all sluts like you lot: He's only a friend, we're not all whores like you	Lap: one full circuit of a race course
Get off: have sex with	Get sacked: be fired, from your job
Fly, tick: attractive	Dyky (from dyke) girl: a masculine seeming girl like the more macho person of a lesbian couple.
She's still a V, man: She still a virgin, pal	Your mom's a barrel of laughs compared to me dad: your mother is a lightweight compared to my father
Piss around: mess around, waste time.	Full scholarship: in the U.S. enough money to pay for all a student's courses plus room and board.
Whining: complaining	Sneak off: disappear quietly
Be on your case: bother	In a strop with me: angry at me
Act weird: behave oddly	Off-limits: forbidden