

Movies & Languages 2019-2020

Breakfast at Tiffany's

About the movie

DIRECTOR	Blake Edwards
YEAR/COUNTRY	1961/ USA
RUNTIME	115 min.
LANGUAGE	English with English subtitles
GENRE	Romantic Comedy
ACTORS	Audrey Hepburn, George Peppard, Mickey Rooney



PLOT

Holly Golightly and Paul Varjack meet each other by chance one night in their apartment building. Holly seems to be a bit of an airhead, but is actually a successful high-end prostitute who escorts rich business men and foreigners. On the other hand, Paul is a struggling and frustrated writer but is also a gigolo for a New York society lady. It is immediately apparent to Holly that Paul, who she calls Fred because he reminds her of her brother, is having a tough time trying to find the inspiration to write. She sets him on the right track. Paul, however, gradually discovers Holly's past and her inner feelings.

It is a classic story about whether it is better to choose love or money. New York in 1961 is the backdrop for their love story. Camera shots of Central Park, walking along streets, in taxis, as well as, inside Tiffany's and New York public library provide a romantic and sophisticated background for the story.

LANGUAGE

The language of the film is very sophisticated and witty, recalling New York wit, and the New Yorker magazine.

VOCABULARY

To pick up the check for others: to pay for other people	Cracker Jacks: caramel coated popcorn and peanut. In every box there is also a prize
Change for the powder room: money received in order to go to the toilet	What crossed my mind...: what I thought of suddenly was...
To cross your heart and kiss your elbow: to promise something	Huckleberry friend: a friend who is always positive and easy going
To cheat on your income tax: to pay less on your taxes than you should	To lug home old things: to bring wild animals into your house
Lapping up the vino: drinking a lot of wine	That's tough beans: unfortunately you have to accept the situation there is
Sing Sing: a famous New York prison	To have him pegged wrong: I misunderstood his character
It's useful to be top banana in the shop: it's useful to have some power	Too dirty: involves a lot of sexually details
Ratty question: a nasty question	No ribbon in the typewriter: you need a ribbon in order to write with a type writer
Since he left home he has gorged himself on peanut butter: since I left home, he has become fat eating peanut butter	He's terribly slow: he's not very intelligent
To snoop: to spy on someone	Wild boyish fling at writing: an enthusiastic effort to write when you were young
Wild boyish fling at writing: an enthusiastic effort to write when you were young	A dump: a place where you throw trash
Phoney: a person who pretends to be something they are not	Hillbilly: a person from the country side who has no urban sophistication
To smooth out that accent: to make your accent more understandable, and to flow better	Screen test: an audition
Timber: raw wood	Snow flurries: flakes of snow
Drifters off to see the world: travelers who are trying to have experiences	These wretched people keep persecuting me: these horrible people keep following me
Slob: a disgusting person	You don't stand a ghost of a chance: there is no possibility of you getting what you want
And all that jazz: and the usual story	You're a chicken: you're a coward
People do fall in love: people really fall in love (this is use of the emphatic do)	