

## Movies & Languages 2013-2014

### Carnage



**About the movie** (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Roman Polansky
YEAR / COUNTRY	2011/ France, Germany, Spain, Poland
GENRE	Comedy, Drama
ACTORS	Jodie Foster, Kate Winslet, Christoph Waltz, John C. Riley

#### PLOT

Two grade-school boys get into a fight in a park that results in one boy injuring the other. Their parents meet in a Brooklyn apartment to discuss the matter. The parents of the boy who was the aggressor visit the home of the parents of the victim. Their meeting is initially intended to be short, but due to various circumstances, continues to draw out.

At first the couples seem to get along, but their respective comments start to hurt feelings, making everyone argue with one another. Apart from fighting amongst themselves, the couples start blaming each other for the fight between their sons and the metaphorical "carnage" begins.

During their time together, the couples manage to cover a lot of issues related to marriage, fair-play, parenting, business ethics, morality in general, male-bonding, and the dynamics of blame and revenge. This film proves just how difficult it is for most people to practice forgiveness and reconciliation and has been compared with a lot of films and plays examining the same subject matter such as Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*

Although the film won few prizes, it was nominated for many and earned positive critical acclaim.

#### LANGUAGE

Standard American English, some slang

#### GRAMMAR

##### Common Uses Of The Imperative

The imperative form is the same as the bare infinitive. We use the imperative for direct orders and suggestions and also for a variety of other purposes. The negative form is usually expressed by **Don't**. Here are some examples:

- 1. Direct demands, requests, suggestions:**  
*Follow me, shut the door, don't worry*
- 2. Warnings:**  
*Look out!, Don't panic!*
- 3. Directions:**  
*Take the second street on the right and then turn left*

4. **Instructions:**  
*Turn the oven on and wait till the temperature rises to 180°*
5. **Prohibitions:**  
*Don't feed the animals, keep off the grass*
6. **Invitations:**  
*Come in and have some coffee and cobbler*
7. **Offers:**  
*Help yourself to another drink*
8. **Expressing rudeness:**  
*Shut up! Mind your own business*

#### VOCABULARY

<b>Carnage:</b> a great and bloody slaughter (as in a battle)	<b>To skimp on something:</b> to be meager in some way
<b>Hamster:</b> a small rodent, sometimes used as a pet	<b>Pussy-ass:</b> effeminate, pusillanimous
<b>Incisor:</b> one of your front teeth	<b>Thug:</b> gangster, killer
<b>No way!:</b> absolutely not	<b>On the edge:</b> at a critical point or juncture
<b>A snitch:</b> someone who informs on others	<b>Touchy-feely:</b> sensitive
<b>PR:</b> public relations	<b>Sudan Sambos:</b> derogatory term the people of Sudan
<b>Souped-up:</b> enhanced or improved	<b>Bent out of shape:</b> very upset
<b>Fan the flames:</b> make something worse	<b>The whole shebang:</b> the entire thing or group
<b>Throw up, barf, toss your cookies:</b> vomit	<b>It takes the cake:</b> it ranks first
<b>Critter:</b> a small animal	<b>Half-cocked:</b> lacking preparation
<b>Not on the same page:</b> to disagree or not understand another	<b>Cobbler:</b> a type of fruit cake
<b>Dizzy:</b> to lose your sense of balance	<b>Patch it up:</b> find a friendly agreement
<b>Ataxia:</b> a nervous disorder	<b>To bicker:</b> to argue about unimportant things