

Foreign Language Film Festival 2008-2009

The Devil Wears Prada



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	David Frankel
YEAR / COUNTRY	2006 / USA
GENRE	Comedy / Drama
ACTORS	Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway, Emily Blunt, Stanley Tucci

PLOT

In New York, the simple and naïve just graduated student in journalism Andrea Sachs is hired to work as the second assistant of the powerful and sophisticated Miranda Priestly, the ruthless and merciless executive of the Runway fashion magazine. Andrea dreams to become a journalist and thinks that this job will aid her in that ambition. The first assistant Emily advises Andrea about the behavior and preferences of their cruel boss, and the stylist Nigel helps Andrea to dress more adequately for the environment. Andrea changes her attitude and behavior, affecting her private life and the relationship with her boyfriend Nate, her family and friends. In the end, Andrea learns that life is made of choices.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English, very understandable.

GRAMMAR

Modal Verbs

You will here many modal verbs in this film. Modal verbs are **can, could, will, would, may, might, shall, should, and must**.

Modal verbs are followed by the infinitive without *to*.

Modal verbs have only one form. So there is no *-s* in the third person singular and there are no verb tenses with *-ing, -ed*, etc.

Questions are made by putting the modal in front of the subject. Negatives are made by putting *not* in front of the subject. Negatives are made by putting *not* immediately after the modal (often shortened to *-n't* in spoken English and informal written English).

Examples:

Can I...? I cannot (can't)
Could I...? I could not (couldn't)
Will I...? I will not (won't)
Would I...? I would not (wouldn't)
etc.

Modal verbs are auxiliary verbs – they are used with other main verbs. Two modal verbs cannot be put together.

Modal verbs show the speaker's attitude or feelings about a situation. For example, how probable or necessary something is, or that the speaker is offering or requesting something.

VOCABULARY

Runway: a platform for staging fashion shows	Jerk: a stupid person
Gird your loins: prepare yourself of action	Dacquoise: a French dessert
My job sucks: I don't like my job	To mess up: to make mistakes
Man the desk: work at the desk	You're full of it: you don't know what you're talking about
Grilling me: interrogating, asking questions	Wacko: somebody considered crazy
Don't get it: to not understand	Hanging by a thread: very vulnerable situation
Gimme: give me	Junk: a shoddy product, something with little meaning or significance
Vicious: aggressive	Whining: complaining with a plaintive tone of voice
Deign to: to condescend to, lower oneself to	Nod: to express assent by body language
Glacial pace: to move slowly	Glamazon: a combination of glamour and amazon