

## Movies & Languages 2016-2017

### *Irrational Man*

**About the movie** (subtitled version)

<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Woody Allen
<b>YEAR / COUNTRY</b>	2015 / USA
<b>GENRE</b>	Thriller / Romance
<b>ACTORS</b>	Jamie Blackley, Joaquin Phoenix, Parker Posey, Emma Stone, Meredith Hagner



#### PLOT

A new philosophy professor arrives at a small town university near Newport, Rhode Island, U.S.A. His name is Abe Lucas and he has a bad reputation as a womanizer and an alcoholic. But what people don't know is that he is a disillusioned idealist. Since he has become aware of his inability to change the world, he has been living in a state of deep nihilism and arrogant desperation. In his classes, he only goes through the motions and outside he drinks too much. He becomes attracted to one of his students, even though he is not that interested in having sexual relationships. She is bright and pretty and he continues to see her on a regular basis. Their relations remain on a platonic level until the day, in a diner near the university, they overhear a conversation that will change the course of their lives dramatically.

This film is enjoyable because it is another example of Woody Allen's attempts, through film, to deal with his personal life and his existential issues.

#### LANGUAGE

Standard American English, some slang, some profanity.

#### GRAMMAR

##### **Make and Do**

There are many common expressions based on **make** and **do**. There is no general rule, although often **make** is used for a product or a result and **do** for a process or activity.

**You make:** an appointment with sb./ an arrangement with sb./ sb. angry, sad, etc./ an attempt to do sth./ a bid for sth./ a noise/ money/ a plan/ an effort/ a profit/ a promise/ a mess/ an investment/ a loss/ an exception/ a mistake/ inquires/ an investigation/ a film/ a difference/ an effort/ an excuse/ a good impression.

**You do:** the accounts/ your best/ the cleaning, shopping, etc./ a favour/ a job for/ nothing/ overtime/ research/ something about it/ well, badly at sth./ without sth./ a course in sth./ a test on sth./ economics at university/ everything you can.

Note: sth. = something and sb. = somebody.

## VOCABULARY

<b>Cloud the issue:</b> make something intentionally unclear	<b>To be turned on:</b> to be excited
<b>Serendipitous:</b> something that occurs by chance	<b>Cyanide:</b> a highly poisonous substance
<b>Touchy mood:</b> easily upset	<b>In the batting of an eye:</b> very quickly
<b>Bleak:</b> not very promising	<b>Bullshit:</b> nonsense
<b>To brood:</b> to be thinking about something that does not make you particularly happy	<b>To be stunned:</b> to be shocked or astonished by something
<b>The lowdown on something:</b> the real truth about a presumed fact	<b>Totally wasted:</b> physically incapacitated for one reason or the other
<b>To root for something:</b> to be enthusiastic about an idea or thing	<b>To be cozy:</b> in the film it means to know someone very well
<b>Red tape:</b> bureaucratic obstacles	<b>Dizzy:</b> disoriented
<b>Zest for life:</b> love and enthusiasm for living	<b>Mellowing:</b> becoming kinder or more relaxed
<b>A shrink:</b> a psychiatrist	<b>Phenomenology:</b> a branch of philosophy which deals with consciousness, thought, and experience
<b>Existentialism:</b> a branch of philosophy which stresses the importance of human existence, and human experience	<b>Womanizer:</b> a person who pursues or associates illicitly with women
<b>To blush:</b> a reddening of the face because of shame or modesty	<b>To be flattered:</b> to be praised excessively or in an exaggerated manner
<b>Nihilism:</b> a viewpoint that all traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and all existence consequently senseless	<b>Platonic relationship:</b> feelings of affection that do not involve sex