

Movies & Languages 2014-2015

Saving Mr. Banks

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	John Lee Hancock
YEAR / COUNTRY	2013 / USA
GENRE	Comedy
ACTORS	T. Hanks, E. Thompson, C. Farrell, P. Giamatti



PLOT

Walt Disney, a doting father, promised his daughters that he would bring their favourite fictional nanny, Mary Poppins, to life in the cinema. Little did he know what he was getting into because the author of the book, Pamela Travers, did not like Hollywood and had no intention of letting her most famous creation be manipulated for the marketplace.

Years later, when her book sales began to slow, dwindling finances forced her to schedule a meeting with Disney to discuss future movie rights to her beloved story. For two weeks in 1961, a determined Disney did all he possibly could to convince Travers that his film version of Mary Poppins would be wondrous and respectful. In the end, to really convince her, he had to reach back to his early childhood.

LANGUAGE

Standard American, Australian and British English.

GRAMMAR

As and Like

1. Similarity

We can use like or as to say things that are similar.

a. **Like** is a preposition. We use like before a noun or pronoun.

You look **like** your sister
He ran **like** the wind
She's dressed **like** me

We also use like to give examples.

He's good at some subjects, **like** mathematics
In mountainous countries, **like** Switzerland

b. **As** is a conjunction. We use as before a clause, and before an expression beginning with a preposition.

Nobody knows her **as** I do
We often drink tea with the meal, **as** they do in China
On Friday, **as** on Tuesday, the meeting will be at 8.30

2. Function

We use **as**, not **like**, to say what function a person or thing has, what jobs people do, what things are used for, etc.

He worked **as** a waiter for two years
Please don't use your plate **as** an ashtray

VOCABULARY

Sake: a Japanese rice based beverage	Harsh: very difficult
To be broke: not have any money or income	Odd: strange
Crash: a failure	Okey-Dokey: it's OK, it's all right
Zip: fast	Bitter pill: not good
Let someone down: disappoint someone	Wares: goods for sale
"I got that brother!": I understand	Greedy: avaricious
"Let it all go!": forget about it all	Collect me: pick me up with a car
Conundrum: a riddle which involves a pun	Cooped up inside: being inside an enclosed space
Fell blow: lethal	Ball: a party with dancing
Honk: a sound you make from a car to alarm or inform	