

Movies & Languages 2012-2013

The Ides of March

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	George Clooney
YEAR / COUNTRY	2011 / USA
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Ryan Gosling, George Clooney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Paul Giamatti, Marisa Tomei



PLOT

Stephen Myers is an idealist and is brilliant at communications. He is second in command of Governor Mike Morris's presidential campaign, and is a true believer in the politics of Morris. In the middle of the Ohio primary, the campaign manager of Morris's opponent asks Myers to meet and offers him a job. At the same Morris's attempt to win the endorsement of a powerful North Carolina Senator hits a snag.

A young campaign intern, Molly Stearns, gets Stephen's romantic attention, but has an important secret that could determine the fate of Morris's campaign. In the end Stephen must decide what's more important: career, victory, or virtue.

The Ides of March was featured as the opening film at the 68th Venice International Film Festival. Although not winning any major awards it received generally positive reviews from most film critics.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

GRAMMAR

The Imperative

We use the imperative for direct orders and also for a variety of other purposes. Stress and intonation, gesture, facial expression and, above all, situation and context indicate whether the use of this form is friendly, abrupt, angry, impatient, persuasive, etc.

The imperative form is the same as the bare infinitive. Here are some examples:

Affirmative form (base form of the verb)	<i>Wait!</i>
Negative short form (Don't + base form)	<i>Don't wait!</i>
Emphatic form (Do + base form)	<i>Do wait a moment!</i>
Addressing someone (e.g. pronoun + base form)	<i>You wait here!</i>
Imperative + question tag	<i>Wait here, will you?</i>
Imperatives joined by and	<i>Go and play outside</i>

Uses of the Imperative with "do":

Expressing politeness	<i>Do have another beer</i>
Expressing impatience	<i>Do stop talking!</i>
Persuasion	<i>Do help me with my problem</i>

VOCABULARY

Hang on!: wait a minute!	Did you get that?: were you able to record all that?
Bearcat: mascot of University of Cincinnati sports team	Primary election: an election before the regular election to select a political party's candidates
Super Tuesday: a Tuesday in February or March on which primary elections are held in a great number of states	To jump ship: to betray someone or something
To shake up something: to change something	Prick: a disagreeable or contemptible person
Win-win situation: from game theory, a situation based on compromise where nobody loses much and everybody wins something	Buffalo wings: braised or barbecued chicken wings with a spicy sauce
She's gone: she's dead	Ticket: candidates for President and Vice-President for the elections (which take place every four years in the USA)
You leaked it: you made public confidential information or knowledge	Polls: voting stations, places where one goes to vote
Off the record: this information is anonymous, there is no official source	It's your call: you make the decision
To hit a snag: to have a problem or obstacle	To have balls: to have courage, to be willing to take a risk