Movies & Languages 2015-2016

The Imitation Game

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Morten Tyldum
YEAR / COUNTRY	2014 / UK, USA
GENRE	Historical Drama
ACTORS	Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Matthew Goode, Rory Kinnear, Charles Dance, Mark Strong

PLOT

The Imitation Game is a film loosely based on the biography **"Alan Turing: The Enigma"** by Andrew Hodges.

In 1939 newly created British intelligence agency MI6 recruits Cambridge mathematician Alan Turing to crack Nazi military codes with a cryptography team. The team are trying to understand the ciphers created by the Enigma machine, which the Nazis use to provide security for their radio messages, and invent a machine to decipher them.

Three specific time periods are presented in the life of Turing. The first is the span of WW II. The second is 1928 when he is a youth attending boarding school. The third is 1951, after his home in Manchester is reported broken into by his neighbour. The police are called to investigate and what they discover has far reaching consequences on Turing's life. As the phases of his life are overlaid and intermingled, the viewer should stay very attentive.

It is thought that without Turing's efforts WW II might have gone on for another 2-3 years with more than 18 million casualties. It was not until many years after his death that he was recognized for his accomplishments, including the invention of the precursor of the modern computer. Both the world in general and Information Technology in particular owe him gratitude.

The Imitation Game was a commercial and critical success. It was nominated in eight categories at the 87th Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor, and Best Supporting Actress. It won an Academy Award for Best Adapted Screenplay.

LANGUAGE

Standard British English.

GRAMMAR

QUESTION TAGS

Question tags consist of an auxiliary verb and a personal pronoun. There are a few basic rules:

1. If there is an auxiliary (**do, be, have**) or modal auxiliary verb in the main clause, it is repeated in the question tag. For example:

    *He hasn't eaten yet, **has he?***
    *She should be in bed by now, **shouldn't she?***

2. If there is an ordinary verb in the main clause, **do** is in the question tag. For example:

    *You know how to speak English, **don't you?** (Present)*
    *They went to California last year, **didn't they?** (Past)*
    *He had a heart attack last year, **didn't he?** (Past – **have** as ordinary verb)*

3. Normally an affirmative statement has a negative question tag and vice versa. For example:

*You're coming, **aren't you?***
*He doesn't like jazz, **does he?***

4. **I am** is followed by the question tag **aren't I?**. For example:

*I'm stupid, **aren't I?***

5. After an imperative, **will you?** or **would you?** are the most common forms. **Will you?** Is the only form possible after a negative imperative. For example:

*Pay attention, **will you?***   *Don't be late, **will you?***
*Shut the door, **would you?***

6. Negative expressions like **no, nothing, nowhere and nobody** in the main clause are followed by affirmative question tag. For example:

*He takes no interest in his studies, **does he?***

7 **Somebody/someone, everybody/everyone and nobody/no-one** are followed by **they** in a question tag. For example.

*Nobody called, **did they?***
*Everybody was happy, **weren't they?***

8. **Nothing/anything** in the main clause is followed by **it** in a question tag. For example:

*Nothing could be finer, **could it?***
*Anything could happen now, **couldn't it?***

VOCABULARY

to ransack: to make a mess or do damage, usually in a house or building, while searching for something	**while away our days**: waste or pass our time
start from scratch: start from the very beginning	**NPL**: National Physical Laboratory (UK)
prodigy: a highly talented child	**MI6**: British foreign military intelligence agency
a poof: a homosexual	**RAF**: Royal Air Force
a cog: a tooth on the rim of wheel or gear	**a ruckus**: a row, a disturbance
humdrum: monotonous, dull	**cad**: a person without gentlemanly manners
famished: very hungry	**odd duck**: unusual, strange, different person
cryptography: secret, coded writing	**cipher**: a method of secret writing or the alphabet and symbols used in such writing; a message in code
rubble: broken fragments of a destroyed building	**Enigma**: German encryption machine
touchy: being offended on slight provocation	**to pull off something**: to accomplish or succeed at something
chemical castration: castration through hormonal therapy	**decrypt**: decode a secret message or alphabet
encrypt: encode a secret message or alphabet	