

Movies & Languages 2014-2015

Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Oliver Stone
YEAR / COUNTRY	2010 / USA
GENRE	Drama
ACTORS	Michael Douglas, Shia LaBeouf, Josh Brolin, Carey Mulligan, Frank Langella

PLOT

This film is a sequel to *Wall Street* (1987). The film takes place in New York, 23 years after the original and revolves around the 2008 financial crisis. Its plot centers on a reformed Gordon Gekko, just released after serving 8 years in prison for insider trading, and follows his attempts to repair his relationship with his daughter Winnie, with the help of her fiancé Jacob. In return, Gekko helps Jacob get revenge on the man he blames for his mentor's death.

Although the acting was generally praised, the film was considered an unnecessary sequel. In any case it was a commercial success at the box office, topping the USA ranking during its opening weekend.

LANGUAGE

Standard American English.

GRAMMAR

Reported Speech

We often tell people what other people have said. This is called “reported or indirect speech”. We very rarely try to report the exact words that someone actually says. Usually we give the general meaning with a summary.

When the verb tense changes it “moves back” in time:

‘I work for IBM’: she said she worked for IBM

‘I’m working for IBM’: she said was working for IBM

‘I’ve worked for IBM’: she said she had worked for IBM

‘I’ve been working for IBM’: she said she had been working for IBM

‘I worked for IBM’: she said she had worked for IBM

‘I had worked for IBM’: she said she had worked for IBM

‘I’m going to work for IBM’: she said she was going to work for IBM

‘I can/will/may work for IBM: she said she could/would/might work for IBM

There is no change for *must, might, could, should, would*.

Note well that if the actual words were in the past simple (worked), the reported speech can change or stay the same.

Note well that there is no change for the past perfect (had worked).

VOCABULARY

Greedy: having a selfish desire for possessions	Axe to grind: revenge
Payback: revenge	Pow-wow: a meeting, informal or formal
Pikers: small time gamblers or speculators	Get behind something: support it
Walking papers: being fired, pink slip	Launder money: transforming the earnings from criminal activities into ostensible legitimate assets
Bailout: when a business, individual, or government offers money to a failing business to avoid bad consequences	Far-fetched: difficult to believe
Get spooked: become afraid	To short a stock: to bet on the decline of a security
Leveraged debt: partially financing something with borrowed money	Lean out the herd: eliminate the weakest
To flip it: to buy and sell something quickly, without further investment	Dig around: investigate
Insider trading: the trading of a public company's stock or securities by individuals with access to non public information about the company	Cutting edge no brainer: sure thing, obvious