


Movies & Languages 2017-2018

Zootropolis

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Byron Howard (story), Rich Moore (story), Jared Bush (story & screenplay)
YEAR / COUNTRY	2016 / USA
GENRE	3D American computer-animated Comedy-Adventure film
ACTORS	Voice cast: G. Goodwin, J. Bateman, I. Elba, J. Slate, N. Torrence, B. Hunt, D. Lake, T. Chong, J.K. Simmons, O. Spencer, A. Tudyk and Shakira



PLOT

Zootopia takes place in a world of anthropomorphic mammals living in an intricate network of ecosystems like ritzy Sahara Square and frigid Tundratown, where mammals co-exist (more or less) despite numerous class distinctions.

The story focuses on Judy Hoops a plucky rabbit who becomes Zootopia's first official bunny cop thanks to a "Mammal Inclusive Initiative" focused on recruiting cops of diverse backgrounds. Assigned to Zootopia's police precinct, Judy shows up for work, the tiniest recruit in a field dominated by rams, elephants, lions etc.! But the life lessons continue to accumulate when gruff bullheaded Chief Bogo (a cape buffalo) assigns Judy to menial parking ticket duty rather than allow her to work on a mammal-missing case, unwilling to acknowledge Judy as a real officer because of her species.

Judy soon realizes that the city's "perfection" falls a little too short and learns that Zootopia isn't at all like her idealized version. Predators (10%) and prey (90%) do not all get along like a big commune: there are tensions, prejudices among all the animals. Among other things, Judy also has to overcome unfair preconceptions about her own abilities.

However, determined to prove herself, Judy volunteers to undertake the mammal-missing case and given 48 hours to solve the case or resign. Needing help, Judy bonds with fox Nick Wilde and they e start searching for clues all over Zootopia, encountering a plethora of oddball characters while solving the case.

The film received widespread critical acclaim with much praise going towards the film's animation, voice acting, characters, humor, screenplay, and themes about discrimination and social stereotypes. The film was also a massive box office success, grossing over \$1.000 billion worldwide against its \$150 million budget. It ranks as the second highest-grossing Walt Disney Animation Studios' film.

The film received the Golden Globe (2016), Oscar Academy Award (2017), Critics' Choice Movie Award, Annie Award for Best Animated Feature Film, as well as receiving a nomination for the BAFTA Award for Best Animated Film.

LANGUAGE

Standard & Informal American English / Slang

GRAMMAR

INFINITIVES with TOO and ENOUGH

We often add an INFINITIVE to complete the meaning of an expression with TOO and ENOUGH. Notice the different word order. TOO comes before adjectives and adverbs. ENOUGH comes after adjectives and adverbs but before nouns.

- >> My 85-year-old grandfather is TOO old to drive a car.
- >> He drives TOO slowly to pass the test.
- >> My 15-year-old son isn't old ENOUGH to get a driver's license.
- >> He doesn't have ENOUGH money to buy a car.

SPECIAL TIPS!

The meanings of VERY, TOO, and ENOUGH are different.

1. VERY intensifies the meaning of the adjective.
>> The test was VERY difficult. (but you could pass it)
2. TOO signals a negative result.
>> The test was TOO difficult to pass. (no one could pass it)
3. ENOUGH means "sufficient / sufficiently"
>> The coffee is finally cool ENOUGH to drink.

VOCABULARY

s.o. = someone, s.th. = something, *Slang

Anthropomorphic: attributing human motivation, characteristics or behaviour to animals	A treat: to buy or pay for s.th. for another person "Put your money away--I'm going to treat you for lunch!"
*To hustle s.o.: tries to obtain money by fraud or deception	A con artist / confidence artist: a person who defrauds other people through deception
Complacency: a feeling of satisfaction with your own abilities or situations that prevents you from trying harder	Popsicle: is a US trademark for a piece of ice flavoured with fruit that is frozen onto a stick & eaten as a sweet...in the film, the animal characters also love their "pawpsicle sticks"
To refrain from doing s.th.: to abstain from doing s.th.	
To give up on s.o. or s.th.: to expect s.o or s.th. to fail. "Don't give up on me! I just need a little more encouragement"	To strike out: (from American baseball jargon) to fail "His next two business ventures struck out"
To let s.o. down: to disappoint s.o. by failing to do what you agreed to do	*Flatfoot: a derogatory term for a policeman, so-called, from the notion that flat feet result from walking too much on patrol
Skulking around: moving quietly & stealthily	
To strike out: (from American baseball jargon) to fail "His next two business ventures struck out"	Sloths: live in trees, move very slowly and hang upside down from branches
A meter maid: a policewoman responsible for issuing tickets for parking violations	Rush-hour: periods of the day when most people are travelling to or from work
You resign: give up, renounce, surrender, throw in the towel	Sloths: live in trees, move very slowly and hang upside down from branches
Night Howlers: not wolves but toxic flowers that can turn civilized mammals into savage beasts	*It's a bummer: if you say that s.th. is a bummer, you find it very unpleasant or troublesome
Parking duty: giving parking tickets to pay a fine for parking illegally	*To go off the rails: to behave in an unacceptable way
ZPD: Zootopia Police Department	*To crack the case: to solve the case
DMV: Department of Mammal Vehicles	Weird: odd, outlandish, strange, oddball