

## Simplified Speech #218 – How we watch movies in 2025 (ad free)

### Episode description

In this episode of Simplified Speech, Andrew and Indiana talk about how they watch movies, both at the theater and at home. They discuss their personal movie habits, like sneaking snacks into the cinema, watching movies alone, and breaking long movies into smaller parts. You'll also hear about movie traditions in different countries, how theater experiences are changing, and the pros and cons of enjoying films with friends, family, or just by yourself.

### Fun fact

Did you know that the first public movie screening was in 1895? The Lumière brothers showed a collection of short films to a paying audience in Paris. Their first movie lasted only about 50 seconds!

### Expressions included in the study guide

- To take someone out of something
- Times have changed
- To zip one's lips
- To fall flat
- To ring true
- To leave a sour taste in one's mouth



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## Transcript

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Note: The words and expressions that appear in **bold text** within the transcript are discussed in more detail in the Detailed Explanations section that follows the transcript. The transcript has been edited for clarity.

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**Andrew:** Joining me now to talk all about watching movies is my co-host, Indiana. Hello there, Indiana. How are you doing today?

**Indiana:** I'm doing really good. How are you, Andrew?

**Andrew:** I'm good as well. Thank you so much. And our topic is one that I think is near and dear to both of our hearts, Indiana. It's about movies and we're both movie fans. And today we're going to talk not necessarily about the kinds of movies we like or the directors that we like, but more about the traditions, and the habits, and the culture, that surround watching movies. So how we like to watch movies and how we enjoy them. So, I think this will be a really interesting discussion. And I thought for the first half of our conversation, we could talk about going to the movie theater and watching movies in a theater. And then for part two of the conversation, we'll bring things back home and we'll talk about watching movies at home. Because, yeah, who doesn't love a movie night at home? So, let's get into it. Let's start with part one, going to watch movies at the theater. And I'll throw things over to you first, Indiana. Maybe I could just ask you how often you go to the theater to watch a movie? Like, is it something you do once a week, once a month, once a year? How frequently do you go to the theater?

**Indiana:** I would say that I tend to go to the movies maybe once every other month. I usually just go when there's something new coming out and it's something I'm really excited for. Maybe it's a movie that would really benefit from being seen in the theater on the big screen with good sound quality. Or sometimes my local theater will play old movies. Like maybe this month actually they're doing David Lynch Month, who's a very famous and beloved director who just passed away recently. So, like every Monday or

Tuesday they've got a couple of David Lynch movies. So yeah, if there's some old movie I really like, I might go see... go see it. But otherwise, I always tend to watch movies at home. What about you, Andrew? What do you do?

**Andrew:** Yeah, I would say that I am almost the same as you. Probably once every two months seems about right. I mean, I love going to the movie theater. It's something that I wish I could do every day if I had time to do it. And if there were movies that were good enough to watch, I would, you know, love going to the movie theater. I think these days for me, watching a movie at home, and maybe we can get into this a little bit later, is harder and harder and harder than ever before, just because of different commitments that I have, or just because of smartphones, which I tend to pull out if the movie is dragging or something like that. But when you're in the theater, you get that immersive experience, right? The lights are down, you can focus on the movie, there's no breaks, you just watch it the whole way through. And for me, it's one of the best movie-watching experiences out there. So, I love it. But yeah, I'm kind of the same way. If there's a new movie that I really want to watch, then I go to the theater. Or yeah, I also like watching old movies at the theater. There's this cool indie cinema here in Seoul. And I'll give them a shout out. It's called Emu Cinema. And I love going to Emu Cinema. It's just this really small, intimate theater. It's got maybe, I want to say, 40 seats in it, like it's pretty small. And yeah, they do. They play a lot of new indie films, and films by some great Korean directors, but they also do old films and retrospectives and foreign films. So those are the kind of movies that are right down my alley. And not too long ago they played an old Korean movie. And the English title is something like, "Please Take Care of My Cat." It's a Korean movie that I really love. So, when I saw that they were playing it at the theater, I was like, I gotta go see it. Like I never had that opportunity to watch it when it was first released. So, I went to the theater and watched it there. And that was a really cool experience. So yeah, I guess I'm pretty similar to you. Not too often, I don't go too often. But for directors I really love, or those movies that you must see in the cinema, right? Sometimes those come out, it's like you have to watch this because of the special effects or because of something or other,

you must watch it in the theater. And those movies I'll go see. But yeah, otherwise, I guess I mostly watch movies at home.

**Indiana:** Yeah, you know, I just went to see "Mickey 17," the new Bong Joon Ho movie. That was definitely one that I was like, oh, yeah, I got to get some friends together and see this in the theater. I'm so excited.

**Andrew:** Yeah, I was excited for that movie as well. And I saw it, I think it was the opening weekend that it was released here in Korea. My wife and I, we're fans of him. And so, we went to go watch that movie. And we both really enjoyed it was a fun and wacky and interesting movie. So that's cool that you saw it as well. Indiana, I'm wondering when you go to the theater, do you buy snacks from the concession? And "the concession" is what we call the snack selling area, the place where you can go and buy popcorn, or a drink, or chocolate bars, all kinds of things that they sell at the concession. I know in Canada, and it's probably like this in the States as well, it's notorious for being expensive, right? Like a bag of popcorn is prohibitively expensive sometimes. It's like crazy expensive. So, because of that, some people don't like to snack during a movie. But what's your style? Are you a snacker while you're watching a movie? Or do you like to just sit and enjoy the film?

**Indiana:** I have to admit that I tend to sneak candy or some snacks in covertly, secretively, even though you're not really supposed to. Yeah, definitely candy during a movie is a great combo. And I'll bring like a water bottle. But yeah, it's a little bit against the rules. Yeah, the concessions are very, very expensive. But my local theater does have this mint brownie, which is like homemade, and it's like really good. And it's worth the \$5. So sometimes I get that, but usually I'm sneaking them in.

**Andrew:** Yeah, that's really funny that that's that's even a thing. But in Canada as well, you know, movie theaters, they, maybe we can talk about this a little bit later, but they're not doing so well these days, right? It's really easy to watch movies at home. And a lot of

people have big TVs or projectors at home and good surround sound stereos. And so that kind of unique movie theater experience that you could never get at home back in the day, now almost everybody has access to it. Maybe even if you don't have that set up at your home, probably one of your friends does. So, you could go over there and watch it. So, because of that, I think there aren't as many people watching movies in the theaters these days. And so, they rely on that concession business as a way to make money and to stay around. But, you know, even as somebody who loves the theater and loves going to the movies, it's like, come on guys, you gotta be fair to us and we'll be fair to you. If you're charging these outrageous prices for popcorn, it's hard for me to support you. And so, I think, yeah, many people are just upset about those extremely high snack prices. And so, they'll sneak candy in just like you, you know, maybe put it in your bag and then when the lights go out, then you can sneak it out and yeah, eat in there. But there are rules in North American theaters, like no outside food, right? If you wanna eat a snack, it must be from the concession, but I don't think people follow that rule very closely. And here in Korea, I think there probably is a rule like that, but I definitely know people don't follow it. It's like very common for people just to bring their own snacks in here.

**Indiana:** Yeah, I think there's a new kind of business model with some theaters. I think it's based on the first chain that probably did it is Alamo Draft House. And this, I think they probably started in New York City, but it's sort of like a dinner service movie theater where like you're gonna order a burger and fries while you're watching the movie and then like a waiter brings it to you during the movie. So, I think like some theaters are shifting to this kind of like combination business model. Maybe it's yeah, part of a way to make more money. I don't know. Maybe they'll catch you if you're sneaking food in when the waiter sees you. I kind of find it annoying because like then you get distracted when you... when you see the waiter, they're like whispering to the person trying to order a beer. And it's like, I'm trying to watch a movie. This is like a sad scene or something or a really scary scene. You're **taking me out of it**. I don't know if there are any kinds of, yeah, like sort of combination movie restaurant kind of places like that in Korea.

**Andrew:** Yeah, I'm trying to think. There are lots of different concept theaters here. So, to tell you the truth, I've never been to them. But if you go to the websites of different movie theaters, almost every theater is going to have like at least one theater in the cineplex that has some kind of unique concept. Like sometimes there will be ones with reclining chairs. So, like an armchair, you know, like a reclining chair that maybe you'd have in your living room, instead of just the regular movie chair. And I know one, I think was for couples and had love seats. So, like a two-person sofa, so you could sit with your significant other and sort of cuddle up and watch the movie together. And I think even one had beds. I think that is like kind of a dangerous concept. I'm not sure how well that went. I... to be honest with you, I don't think I'd want to get in one of those beds and watch a movie that way. But yeah, there are different concepts here. I haven't heard of like the food service. That's a little nuts to me. I think, yeah, I would love that. If it were like my private theater, you know, but like, if I was making the order, I'd be OK with it. But if somebody else was making the order, and the server was helping them, then I'd probably be like, come on, **you're taking me out of this movie**. So, I don't know if I'd like that or not. Yeah. Speaking of prices, I'm curious about how much it costs to see a movie these days in the States? Is it expensive to go to the theater? Are there any discounts or ways that you can save money when watching a movie?

**Indiana:** So, there are like these big chains that have really, really nice like IMAX screens or whatever that you'll find all over the country. And they're usually in shopping malls. I feel like those tend to be the most expensive. You might be paying like over... upwards of \$20 a movie. I try to go to the local not-chain movie theaters, and they tend to be a little cheaper, but really not that much cheaper than that. But another thing that I'll do is maybe I'll go to a matinee, so that's like a daytime showing of a movie, and those tend to be like half price or at least somewhat discounted. So yeah, matinees would be a good way to save money. But yeah, movie theaters have really gotten quite expensive.

**Andrew:** Yeah, the matinee. It's interesting, I forgot about what a matinee is. And like you said, that's a movie that's usually in the morning or perhaps the early afternoon, but not in

the evening when most people go to watch a movie. But here in Korea, we have that matinee culture in Canada as well. It's a little bit cheaper if you go to see an earlier movie. But here in Korea, I think the matinee culture doesn't really exist. If you look at the schedules, I mean, there are matinees, but you don't get a discount because if you look at the theater schedule, they start movies pretty early in the morning. Like, I don't know, I'd have to check, but I have a feeling that some theaters may start as early as like maybe seven or eight or nine in the morning. And yeah, so I think there are some people probably out there who are watching a movie before they go to work. If they start a little bit later in the day. So, they'll start early in the morning and the movies will continue all the way until probably the last movie finishes after 1am for example. So yeah, you have lots of time options here in Korea. But unfortunately, as far as I know, no discounts.

There is one day I think it's the last Wednesday of each month, where it's a kind of culture day in Korea. And so, you can get a discount for different cultural events. And thankfully, movies fall under this category for cultural events. So, you know, if you were to go see a performance, a play, yeah, a movie or any kind of cultural event, you can get a small discount. So, I think the last Wednesday of every month, maybe there's yeah maybe 25% discount. I'd have to look into the details that you can get to go and see a movie. So that day is always really popular. I think maybe there are many sold out shows on that last Wednesday of the month.

In Canada, I remember when I was growing up, **times have changed** and it's sad. I'm too old now, but when I was a high school student back in, I guess this would have been around the late 90s or early 2000s, we had this amazing thing called Toonie Tuesday. And for everyone who doesn't know, a toonie is the name of the Canadian \$2 coin. So, you could go watch a movie for \$2. And yeah, that was awesome. That was always a really popular time to go watch a movie. I think now I would probably hate it because it was like everybody in my high school would go and watch a movie every Tuesday. So, it's just filled with high school students, and you can imagine that is pretty loud and reckless in the theater. Not a lot of people maybe focusing on the movie and more joking around and stuff

like that. So, the days of the Toonie Tuesday are long gone, unfortunately, but we still have a discounted Tuesday evening, so I think going to watch a movie on a Tuesday evening is the best time in Canada if you want to get a cheaper ticket than the usual price.

**Indiana:** I feel like I'm always learning Canadian slang from whenever I talk to you, Andrew. A while ago, you told me about "dually" for dual citizenship. I was like, what is that? OK. So.

**Andrew:** Right, right.

**Indiana:** So, good lesson for me. OK, toonie, toonie Tuesday.

**Andrew:** We have two coins in Canada that are kind of worth keeping, the other smaller coins you can get rid of, and it doesn't really affect you at all 'cause they're small denominations, but we have the one-dollar coin, which is called the Loonie, and that's because it has a picture of the loon on it, that bird. So, because of the loon, we called it the Loonie, and then after the Loonie was released, maybe, I don't know, five years later, then we replaced our two-dollar bill with a two-dollar coin, and it's got a polar bear on the back, but for some reason we just called it the Toonie, because it's like two loonies together, you get the two-dollar coin. So yeah, that's the official name. It's kind of funny, but.

**Indiana:** Oh, wow.

**Andrew:** The toonie. Yeah. It's not slang. That's that's official. That's dictionary Canadian English. Anyways, Indiana, let's see what next did I want to talk about? Well, maybe this is a good time to transition to talking about watching movies at home. So, like we said earlier, you know, these days, the prices of TVs have dropped substantially. TVs are just getting bigger and better and brighter and cheaper. And same with stereos as well. So, I think it's easy to replicate the theater experience in your home these days. And so, yeah, I guess if

you watch, I'll ask you the same question as before, if you watch a movie once every couple of months at the theater, how often are you watching movies at home?

**Indiana:** At least once a week, I bet. Yeah, I'm a big, big movie head. You could call me a cinephile. Yeah, big movie fan. Yeah, at least once a week. That's what I would say. How about you, Andrew? What's your schedule for watching movies at home?

**Andrew:** Probably once every two weeks. And again, if I had the time, I would love to watch a movie every day. I am also to an extent a cinephile, but I just don't have the time, unfortunately, to watch as many movies as I would like. But yeah, I love watching movies. It's amazing. I think it's one of the best art forms out there. I find it incredible and yeah, I love it. Just have a hard time fitting it in my schedule, unfortunately. I'm curious, Indiana, when you watch a movie at home, do you prefer to watch it alone? Do you like watching them with your husband? Do you like watching it with groups of friends? Do you ever have like a movie night over at your place? What's your preferred configuration for watching a movie?

**Indiana:** Usually, I'm watching movies just with my husband, 'cause we... I think we have generally the same taste, and we agree that, like, if it's a serious movie, both of us need to **zip our lips** and just watch, and, like, if you need to go to the bathroom, that's fine, we'll pause it, but, like, don't talk during the movie. But, like, when you get one friend, two friends, three friends together, it's almost impossible not to just like chat or have some banter and make jokes during a movie. And it drives me crazy if it's like a movie I really want to see. I'm like, "Shut up, just be quiet." So, I will have movie nights with my friends if it's like a non-serious or even a movie that I know is going to actually be a bad movie. But it's like, "OK, this will be fun to watch. We can riff, we can make jokes, but like I don't care if I miss some of the plot." You know? Yeah. Do you have the same experience with... with your friends? Or what do you usually do? Are you a solo movie watcher?

**Andrew:** Yeah, I used to have movie nights when I was younger with my friends. And even when I first moved to Korea, me, and some of my foreign friends, we had a Korean movie night. And just as a way to try and watch more Korean films and learn about the culture and stuff. So that was like my first year or two that I spent in the country. But I had the same exact issue. You know, if you get, I would say, more than three people together, then suddenly it just turns into a party. And there's always somebody who's not interested in the movie and they're talking. And then it's hard to follow the plot. And you're just hanging out at that point. You're not really watching the movie. Yeah, I like to focus on the film.

So, my preferred way to watch a movie, and even this, I think is in the theater as well, is just by myself these days. I know there's always that stigma, at least in Canada, there's a stigma about going to watch a movie alone. Like, oh, you're a loser or a loner. You have no friends to go with, but like, I wanna focus on the movie. And so, going alone, or going with my wife to the cinema is great. She's really observant and much more intelligent than I am, I think. And so, whenever we finish watching the movie, I love to hear her opinion and her analysis and breakdown of the film. 'Cause yeah, for me, I guess I'm kind of a slow person. So sometimes it takes me like two or three times to watch a movie before I can really break down and analyze it and see some of the bigger themes or character development, those kinds of more deeper analytical things. Takes me a while. I need to watch it a few times. The first time I watch it, I'm just following the plot story. But my wife, on the other hand, she notices so many fine details, and she can put together things and analyze it from really unique perspectives, just after watching it one time. So, I love watching movies with her. And then after talking with her, and hearing her perspective, and she always blows my mind. I'm like, whoa, I didn't even think about that aspect of it. How did you notice that? It's amazing. So yeah, it's great to watch movies with her in the cinema.

But when we watch movies at home, I actually prefer to watch them alone. And that's because of the sound issue. I don't know if you've had this issue at all Indiana, but I find

these days, for whatever reason, watching a movie at home can be really frustrating. Sometimes the discrepancy, the discrepancy, and guys, that word means the difference. Sometimes the discrepancy in the volume between dialogue when the characters are talking, and then maybe a sound in the background, like an explosion, or a song that's playing in the film. The volume levels can be really, really different. And it's annoying to watch, I feel like I have to watch with the remote control in my hands. And I'm kind of like putting the volume up and down. And so, because of this, I prefer to watch movies with my headphones on. I've got a pair of Bluetooth headphones, and they sound great. And I can connect them to my TV. And yeah, I also like watching Korean movies a lot. I'm lucky here that Korea's got this amazing movie industry, and they produce a lot of really great films. Something very different than my home country, Canada, so. Canadian films... There are some good ones of course. I don't want to like write off the whole Canadian film industry, but not as good as some other countries around the world.

And Korea has got an amazing film culture and film industry. So, I like to watch Korean movies. And also, of course, Korean is my second language. So, I'm not perfect at that at all. And so having the headphones on allows me to focus on the dialogue. I'm also one of those kind of guys as a language learner, nerd, and English teacher as well. I know the importance of training our ears and getting the language into our head. So, I don't like to use the subtitles. I like to just listen and learn that way. And so, because of that, sound is so important to me. And so, I like to watch alone, and I like to wear my headphones. And my wife says I'm a geek and I look ridiculous with my headphones on watching the movies, but it helps me get immersed, helps me get into the movie. And I think it's the best experience for me.

How about you, Indiana? Do you have any quirks like that when it comes to watching anything that you like to do? Any special habits or anything?

**Indiana:** I'm fortunate that my husband is really into, like, sound setup and sound quality. So, like, he has arranged this great 5.1 sound system for us. So, 5.1, I think, is when you

have front speakers and then also mounted back speakers. And then there's also a subwoofer or maybe like a central, something in the center. So, it's like five different points. So, I guess, you know, somebody's knocking on the door in the movie, you're going to hear it behind you, you're going to go, "Oh, is somebody knocking at my door?" So, it's good. It's a nice immersive movie experience. But I can completely sympathize with what you're saying about the, you know, if there's an explosion and then the next scene has dialogue, and you can't hear the dialogue whatsoever because you turned down the aggressively loud explosion. Super annoying.

**Andrew:** Yeah. So, you're the friend, Indiana, with the good home theater set up. Maybe all your friends want to come watch a movie at your place.

**Indiana:** Yeah, and I even... when we bought our couch, we moved into this house, and we needed a new couch. It was like, that was the number one, like, criteria. Is this going to be ideal for movie watching? We have a sectional so it can, like, fit a bunch of people, and there's like a good view to the TV. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah.

**Andrew:** Cool. OK, next time I'm visiting the States, it's movie night at your place.

**Indiana:** For sure. We'll watch some Korean cinema.

**Andrew:** There we go, there we go. OK, I've got one final question for you, Indiana, that I would love your perspective on. These days, as I said, unfortunately, I don't have enough time in my life to watch the movies that I wanna watch. And I also find, I don't know, maybe this is just part of our culture these days. Maybe it's a me thing, I'm not sure, but it seems like it's harder and harder for me to focus for a long period of time. And it's harder for me to pay attention for a long period of time. And so unfortunately that snuck into the way that I watch movies. And I find that not all the time, but often I'll watch movies in chunks. So, I'll watch like 30 minutes one day, 30 minutes the next day. And I guess I watch it in installments, we would say. And here "an installment" just means pieces or

chunks, right? We also use this word when we're talking about maybe making a larger purchase. If you had to buy, I don't know, a new refrigerator, you might purchase it in installments. So, you would pay, I don't know, 25% one month, 25% the next month, and you would continue until you paid off the fridge. That's called buying something in installments. So unfortunately, I have this bad habit of watching movies in installments. I think the directors would probably... probably be mad at me for watching that way, but it's just, yeah. I mean, for me, my thinking is that it's better to be focused for 30 minutes than to be focused for 30 minutes and distracted for an hour and a half. So, I tend to watch movies that way. How about you? Do you have the same issue that I do with focus and attention?

**Indiana:** Yeah, I do. Sometimes you're just not ready for like a three-hour masterpiece all in one sitting after your workday. So, like, yeah, I definitely understand. I think I've done that too in the past. Like I remember watching "Kagemusha" which is a Kurosawa movie that's over three hours long. I think I split that into at least two viewings, and it was great. I mean, I loved it. It was an amazing movie and I'm glad I was paying attention to it the whole time instead of falling asleep. 'Cause I was just too tired to sit there for three hours.

**Andrew:** That's the other thing. I shouldn't say that I would be distracted for an hour and a half. I'd be sleeping for an hour and a half, right? You watch the first 30 minutes, fall asleep. Yeah. And I think maybe this is one of the reasons why TV is so popular these days, TV series. Is because you can enjoy this like really long, amazing story that takes place over, you know, for one season, maybe it takes 13 or 15 hours, whereas a movie is usually only two or three hours. So, in the whole scheme of things, a TV season is much longer than a movie, but because we're getting it in installments and we're getting it in like 30 minute or one-hour chunks, it seems like it's a little bit easier to digest and easier to watch. So, I'm wondering too that maybe for this reason, that's why we're seeing so many people love TV series and not watch movies as much. And maybe this will be the final question that I'll throw over to you is, do you prefer to watch movies or like a really good TV series? If you had to choose just one.

**Indiana:** I think I would choose movies. Like there are some TV series that, series as I might say.

**Andrew:** I think usually we say just "TV series" because it's so hard to say the plural of that, right? At least I think me, I always struggle too, because technically the grammar rule is we should say serieses, but it's so awkward to pronounce that, at least for me, and I don't know about other English speakers, but I just, I don't say "serieses." It's too difficult. So, I just say TV series as the singular and the plural.

**Indiana:** Yeah.

**Andrew:** Anyways, I cut you off. Continue.

**Indiana:** No worries. It was a grammar note, it was a plurality note. Yeah, I have a few TV series that I love so much. I think it's like a pure art masterpiece, you know, like I was so happy that I sat through so many seasons of it. But in general, I just don't think that TV, you know, there's so much more time and there's so much more time to put into a plot and developing characters. And usually, **it falls flat** for me and there's just like not enough there to be worth all that time I'm spending. So, I think definitely the movie format, you know, a two-hour story, and then I'm done. I think that's like definitely my preference, even if it is in one sitting a little bit longer than an episode of TV. But I am watching Severance right now, which is a great TV show that I'm looking forward to every time it comes out on Fridays. So yeah, that is definitely a good one. But what about you? If you had to pick, which would you go for?

**Andrew:** Yeah, I think I would also choose movies. And the reason that you just said is so true, I think **it really rings true** for me, is that it's hard to make a TV series that spans, you know, even if it's only two or three seasons, that might still be 50 hours of content that the director needs to make. And it's so hard to tell a 50-hour story where it's, you know, has the same impact in the end as like a three-hour movie. I think some stories just don't

need that much time. And so, the story may be in a long TV series starts to wander, or we've probably all watched those shows where it's like, oh my God, the first three seasons were amazing. And then season five or four, five, six, we're not so good. And you know, then **it leaves a sour taste in your mouth**, we say, that just means that you don't have a great memory or a great feeling about that show in the end. So yeah, I think for that reason, just because it's so hard to tell a great story over so many hours in TV that for me, I prefer a movie. But yeah, don't get me wrong. There are still great TV shows out there, but I'm a movie man, I think at heart.

**Indiana:** Agreed, agreed.

## Detailed Explanations

### To take someone out of something

Phrasal verb

**To take someone out of something** means to stop their focus or feeling, usually in a sudden way. This often happens when someone is enjoying a movie, book, or activity, and something interrupts them. The person is no longer paying attention or feeling the same way. In the episode, Indiana talks about waiters walking around and talking to people at a movie theater. She says that overhearing the waiters asking for customers' food orders **takes her out of it**. This means she was focused on the movie, but the waiters broke her concentration and ruined the moment.

You can use this expression when something or someone stops you from enjoying or focusing on something. For example, imagine you are watching a sad part of a movie, and someone nearby starts laughing loudly. That **takes you out of the moment**—you stop feeling sad and perhaps start feeling annoyed. Or, if you are reading a good book and someone suddenly calls your name, you could say, “**That took me out of the story.**” In other words, you no longer feel immersed in the world of the book.

This phrase comes from the idea of being “in” something, like being inside a story or deep in thought. When something breaks your focus, it pulls you “out” of that feeling or experience. It’s like someone waking you up from a dream.

Some similar expressions are: “ruin the moment” (Don’t ruin the moment by talking!), “break the mood” (The phone call broke the mood), or “snap me out of it” (Her text snapped me out of my daydream). These all show a change in feeling or focus.

Here are a couple more examples with **to take someone out of something**:

**Emma:** That movie was getting so emotional, I almost cried.

**Jay:** Yeah, me too... until that guy started coughing loudly behind us.

**Emma:** Ugh, I know! **It really took me out of it.** I couldn’t focus after that.

**Liam:** Wait, why are you pausing the show?

**Becca:** The neighbors are yelling again. **It’s** kind of **taking me out of the story.**

**Liam:** Oh, OK. Let’s take a break, then. I’ll go make some popcorn in the meantime.

## Times have changed

### Expression

The phrase **times have changed** means that life now is different from how it was in the past. People use this expression when they notice that something common, normal, or popular in the past has become very different today. This could be about prices, habits, technology, culture, or daily life. In the episode, Andrew remembers “Toonie Tuesday,” a special day in Canada when you could go to the movie theater for just \$2. That doesn’t happen anymore. He says, “**Times have changed.**” This shows he feels a little sad that something fun from his past is now gone.

You can use this phrase in many situations. For example, maybe you remember when people used to rent DVDs from a video store. Now, people just stream movies online. You can say, “Wow, **times have changed.**” Or, maybe when you were young, kids played outside all day, but now they spend most of their time on tablets or phones. You might comment on this and say, “Man, **times have really changed.**” It works anytime something from the past is no longer true or common today.

“**Times have changed**” can show different feelings depending on how you say it. Sometimes it sounds sad or nostalgic: “We used to write letters to our loved ones, but now no one bothers. **Times have changed.**” In other situations and with a different tone of voice, it can show surprise or even happiness: “Now we can work from home and wear pajamas all day—**times have totally changed!**”

Be sure to use this expression for big or general changes over time—not just small things like “I changed my hair color.” For example:

✓ “Phones used to have buttons. Now they’re all touchscreens. **Times have changed.**”

✗ “I go to the gym more now. **Times have changed.**”

Here are a couple more examples with **times have changed**:

**Ella:** I used to be able to buy a sandwich for \$8. Now a sandwich with a side of chips is costing me close to \$20!

**Nicholas:** Yeah, prices are crazy. **Times have definitely changed.**

**Bruce:** Do you remember when we used to burn CDs to share music?

**Nora:** Oh yeah! Now everyone just uses Spotify.

**Bruce:** **Times have really changed**, huh?

**Nora:** Absolutely. I kind of miss having homemade mix tapes in the car, though!

## To zip one's lips

### Idiom

The idiom **to zip one's lips** means to stay completely quiet and not talk. People often say this when they want someone to stop talking or when they are talking about a situation where silence is important. It can also mean to keep a secret and not tell anyone. During the episode, Indiana says that when she and her husband watch serious movies, they both agree to **zip their lips**. This means they stay quiet so they can focus on the movie and enjoy it without interruptions or chatter.

You can use this phrase in many situations. For example, if your teacher tells the class to be quiet during a test, they might say, "OK everyone, **zip your lips!**" Or if a friend tells you a big secret and asks you not to tell anyone, you can say, "Don't worry, **I'll zip my lips.**" It works for both staying silent and keeping secrets. It also works for both short-term silence and long-term promises to stay quiet.

The expression comes from the idea of a zipper, like the kind on a jacket or a bag. If you imagine putting a zipper over your mouth and closing it, it means your mouth is "shut" and you're not saying anything. So, when someone says, "**Zip your lips,**" or "**I zipped my lips,**" they are using a fun and visual way to say "be quiet." People sometimes even pretend **to zip their lips** with their fingers as a gesture when using this expression.

This is an informal expression and is best used with friends. It can sound a bit rude or just too casual for a business setting. If you're talking with your boss or you're in a more formal setting, it's better to use phrasing like, "Let's keep this confidential" or "Please don't share this yet."

Here are a couple more examples with **to zip one's lips**:

**Mary:** I'm going to tell you something, but it's a huge secret.

**Oliver:** Don't worry—I'll **zip my lips**. Your secret is safe with me.

**Mary:** OK... David and I are getting married! We're going to elope this summer.

**Oliver:** Oh my gosh, congratulations!

**Jacob:** OK time to start the movie. I'm really looking forward to this one, so please, no jokes and no chatting.

**Hannah:** Got it. I'll **zip my lips**.

**Jacob:** Thank you.

## To fall flat

### Idiom

The idiomatic verb **to fall flat** means that something doesn't work well or doesn't have the effect people hoped for. It often describes situations where a joke isn't funny, a story is boring, or something was supposed to be exciting but ended up being disappointing. When something falls flat, it doesn't connect with people—it fails to impress, entertain, or create the reaction it was meant to.

In the episode, Indiana uses this phrase to talk about TV shows. She says that most series “**fall flat**” for her. She means that even though some shows have long stories and many episodes, they still don't feel interesting or meaningful. They don't hold her attention, and she feels like they waste her time.

You can use **fall flat** in many situations. For example, if you give a speech and no one claps or reacts, you could say, “My speech **fell flat**.” If someone throws a surprise party but the guest of honor doesn't enjoy it, you might hear, “The party kind of **fell flat**.” People also use this phrase when a joke doesn't make people laugh: “I tried to be funny, but my joke **fell flat**.” The idea is that something was supposed to “land” well with the audience, like a good performance or strong message—but instead, it felt weak, awkward, or boring.

To help remember this phrase, think of a ball that falls to the ground without bouncing at all—it just falls flat. You would expect a ball to bounce, but it doesn't. That's the feeling the expression “**fall flat**” gives: no energy, no success, just silence or disappointment.

Some similar expressions include “miss the mark” (The movie missed the mark—it just wasn't emotional enough), “didn't land” (His joke didn't land with the crowd), or “disappoint” (The ending of the book was a big disappointment).

Here are a couple more examples with **to fall flat**:

**Mindy:** Hey, are you OK?

**Thomas:** Yeah, I just feel like my presentation **fell flat**. No one asked questions, and everyone looked bored.

**Mindy:** I thought your ideas were good, but maybe people were just tired. Don't let it get to you.

**Fiona:** I really wanted to like that comedian, but most of his jokes **fell flat** for me.

**Jack:** Yeah, the audience was uncomfortably quiet. I think everyone was waiting for it to get better, but it never did.

## To ring true Idiom

The verb **to ring true** means that something feels honest, believable, or correct. It's used when an idea, feeling, or statement sounds real or makes sense to you deep inside. When someone says, "That rings true for me," they mean, "I understand that," or "That matches my experience." During their conversation, Andrew says that what Indiana said about TV shows **rings true** for him. He agrees with her point and feels it's consistent with his own experience. Indiana said that TV series often lose quality over time, and Andrew said that idea really **rings true** for him because he's noticed the same thing himself.

You can use **ring true** when someone says something that feels right, even if you can't prove it. For example, if your friend says, "I think she's unhappy, even though she's smiling," you might answer, "Yeah... **that rings true**." It means your feelings match what the other person is saying. You might also use it after reading a story or hearing an opinion that feels real or familiar: "His story about moving to a new country really **rang true** for me."

The expression comes from the idea of a bell. When you hit a real bell, it makes a clear, strong sound—it "rings true." But if the bell is broken or fake, it sounds wrong or dull. In the same way, when an idea **rings true**, it feels clear, honest, and correct—just like the sound of a good bell.

Similar expressions include "makes sense" ("That makes sense to me"), "feels right" ("This decision feels right"), and "I can relate" ("I can relate to what you said about feeling nervous on the first day").

Be sure to use **ring true** for personal ideas, feelings, or experiences—not for facts, numbers, or clear right-or-wrong answers. For example:

✓ "What he said about making friends as an adult really **rang true** for me."

✗ "The answer to the math problem **rings true**." (Say "The answer is correct" instead.)

Here are a couple more examples with **to ring true**:

**Carla:** I feel like people are too busy these days. It's harder to build real friendships.

**Ron:** Yeah... that really **rings true**. I've been feeling the same way since I started my new job.

**Kylie:** Some of the acting in that movie wasn't great, but the scenes with the mom and daughter really **rang true** for me.

**Adam:** I agree. Their relationship felt real, like something I've seen in my own life.

## To leave a sour taste in one's mouth

### Idiom

The expression **to leave a sour taste in one's mouth** means that something gave you a bad feeling or a negative impression, even after it was over. It doesn't mean something actually tastes sour, like a lemon. Instead, it describes the feeling you have when something ends in a disappointing, upsetting, or uncomfortable way. In the episode, Andrew uses this phrase to talk about TV shows. He says that sometimes a show starts off really well, but the later seasons are not as good. Because of that, the later seasons **leaves a sour taste in your mouth** and ruin your experience of the show. Even though you liked the beginning, the bad ending makes the full experience feel disappointing.

You can use this phrase in many real-life situations. For example, if you went to a fun party but someone was rude to you at the end of the night, you might say, "That kind of **left a sour taste in my mouth.**" Or if a company gives you great service at first but then treats you badly later, you might say, "The way that employee treated me **left a sour taste in my mouth**—I don't want to shop there again." It's used when something makes you feel bad or uncomfortable, especially when you expected it to be good.

The phrase comes from the real feeling of tasting something sour, like vinegar or spoiled milk. Unexpectedly sour foods often make people frown or feel uncomfortable. So, this expression uses that physical reaction as a way to talk about emotional experiences that feel wrong or leave a bad memory.

Similar expressions include "rubbed me the wrong way" ("His comment rubbed me the wrong way") and "left a bad impression" ("Her attitude left a bad impression on the group").

Be sure to use this phrase when talking about your feelings or impressions **AFTER** something is over—not while it's still happening. For example:

✓ "I liked the movie until the ending. That last scene really **left a sour taste in my mouth.**"

✗ "I'm watching the movie now, and it's **leaving a sour taste.**" (Wait until it's over to use this expression.)

Here are a couple more examples with **to leave a sour taste in one's mouth**:

**Riley:** I saw your vacation photos on Instagram. Your trip looked fun!

**Ben:** It was—until our hotel overcharged us. That **left a sour taste in my mouth.**

**Trish:** Thanks for coming to the party!

**Sam:** Yeah, it was fun... but that argument at the end **left a sour taste in my mouth.**

## Expressions Quiz

**1. Choose the best use of “times have changed.”**

- a) My haircut is different. Times have changed.
- b) We used to write letters. Now we text. Times have changed.
- c) I woke up earlier than usual today. Times have changed.
- d) I bought new shoes. Times have changed.

**2. Choose the expression that best matches this situation:**

**"I was really enjoying the movie, but my neighbor's phone kept ringing."**

- a) It took me out of it.
- b) It fell flat.
- c) Times have changed.
- d) It rang true.

**3. Your coworker says: "I thought the presentation would be exciting, but it totally fell flat." What does she mean?**

- a) The presentation was too short.
- b) The audience loved it.
- c) It had too much information.
- d) It failed to impress or felt boring.

**4. Choose the sentence that means the same as “That really rings true”:**

- a) That makes no sense to me.
- b) That's factually correct.
- c) I neither agree or disagree with that.
- d) That feels honest or familiar to me.

**5. A teacher says: "OK, kids, please zip your lips for the next ten minutes while we take the quiz." What does she want the students to do?**

- a) Zip up their backpacks.
- b) Whisper quietly.
- c) Stop talking completely.
- d) Have a discussion about the quiz.

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## Listening Comprehension Quiz

6. How often does Indiana say she usually goes to the movie theater?
7. What special feature does Andrew mention about Emu Cinema in Seoul?
8. What does Indiana admit to doing with snacks at the movie theater?
9. What does “matinee” mean, according to Andrew and Indiana?
10. What does Andrew mean when he says he watches movies “in installments”?

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## Writing and Discussion Questions

1. Do you prefer watching movies at home or in a theater? Why? What makes each experience different?
2. What are your biggest pet peeves when it comes to watching movies? Does it **take you out of the experience** when a friend keeps asking you questions or won't stop talking? How about when a movie has bad acting or poor audio mixing?
3. Movies and series are not like they were a few decades ago. **Times have really changed!** In your opinion, how have movies and series changed in your country over the years?
4. Sometimes there are movies and series that receive high praise and critical acclaim, but you give them a try and they totally **fall flat for you**. Please talk about a movie or series that everyone else likes but that you couldn't connect with.
5. Please describe a movie or series with a storyline or characters that really **rang true** for you. Why and how did it connect with you?

## Quiz Answers

1.b    2.a    3.d    4.d    5.c

6. Once every other month.

7. It is a small theater that plays indie films as well as old and foreign films.

8. She admits to sneaking snacks into the theater.

9. A movie shown in the early part of the day.

10. He watches parts of a movie over several days.

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