

Movies & Languages 2013-2014

Despicable Me 2



About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Pierre Coffin, Chris Renaud
YEAR / COUNTRY	2013 / USA
GENRE	3D computer-animated adventure comedy
ACTORS	Steve Carell, Kristen Wiig, Amanda Cosgrove, Russell Brand, Steve Coogan

PLOT

While Gru, the ex-supervillain, is adjusting to family life and an attempted honest living, in the jam business a secret Arctic laboratory is stolen. The Anti-Villain League decides it needs an insider's help and recruits Gru in the investigation. Together with the eccentric AVL agent, Lucy Wilde, Gru concludes that his prime suspect is the presumed dead supervillain, El Macho, whose teenage son is also making the moves on his eldest daughter, Margo. Seemingly blinded by his overprotectiveness of his children and his growing mutual attraction to Lucy, Gru seems on the wrong track even as his minions are being quietly kidnapped en masse for some malevolent purpose.

LANGUAGE

English spoken with Spanish, British, Eastern European and American accents.

GRAMMAR

Past Continuous vs Past Perfect Continuous

The past continuous tense expresses action at a particular moment in the past. The action started before that moment but has not finished at that moment. For example:

Yesterday I watched a film on TV. The film started at 7:00pm and finished at 9:00pm → At 8:00pm I was in the middle of watching a film.

When we use the past continuous tense, our listener usually knows or understands what time we are talking about. Look at these examples:

- I **was working** at 10:00pm last night
- What **were** you **doing** at 10:00pm last night?
- She **was cooking** when I telephoned her

The past perfect continuous tense is like the past perfect tense, but it expresses longer actions in the past before another action in the past. For example:

- Ram started waiting at 9:00am. I arrived at 11:00am. When I arrived Ram **has been waiting** for 2 hours
- John was very tired. He **has been running**
- I could smell cigarettes. Somebody **has been smoking**

VOCABULARY

To crack: to discover the solution to, especially after considerable effort (<i>crack a case</i>)	Bald: lacking hair on the head
Chainsaw: a power tool for cutting wood	Bonkers: mad, crazy, mentally unbalanced
A date: an engagement to go out socially with another person, often out of romantic interest	Boobytrap: an explosive device designed to be triggered when an unsuspecting victim touches or disturbs a seemingly harmless object
To go out on a limb: to put oneself in a risky position in order to support someone or something	To braid: to style the hair by interweaving three or more strands, strips, or lengths of in a diagonally overlapping pattern
A refund: pay back (money), typically to a customer who is not satisfied with goods or services bought	Ruthless: without pity or compassion, cruel, merciless (<i>a ruthless tyrant</i>). Origin: 1300–1350, Middle English
To stall: to stop or delay	Tazer: a trademark used for a high-voltage stun gun
Magnet: a piece of iron or other material which has its component atoms so ordered that the material exhibits properties of magnetism, such as attracting other iron-containing objects or aligning itself in an external magnetic field	To recruit: to find suitable people and get them to join a company, an organization or an army
To unleash: to allow or cause (something very powerful) to happen suddenly	To singe: to burn superficially or lightly scorch; to remove the hair from usually by passing rapidly over a flame
To send off: to cause to be conveyed, transmitted or launched to a destination	Despicable: deserving hatred and contempt