

The Descendants

Director: Alexander Payne
2011 (110')



Matt King, a successful lawyer living in Hawaii, finds he has to re-examine his life after an accident has left his wife in a coma. Suddenly faced with looking after two wayward daughters, the “back-up parent”, as he calls himself, must also face the truth of his wife's infidelities and his own neglect for his family.

Vocabulary and expressions:

To sip (a drink): To drink in small amounts

... we're all just out here sipping mai tais

Screwed up: Having a lot of problems

What's up?: Phrase commonly used for “How are you?”, “How are things?” etc.

Hey Noe, what's up?

Trustee: A person who holds property, authority, or a position of trust or responsibility for the benefit of another.

To hold all the cards: To be in a position of complete control

I am the sole trustee which means I alone hold all the cards

To blow something (e.g. money or an opportunity): To manage something very badly and waste it completely

I haven't blown my share of the trust money

Stinginess: Meanness; unwillingness to spend, share or give e.g. possessions or money

A bum: A tramp or vagabond; a person who avoids work and relies on and takes all they can from others for sustenance and support

To get the ball rolling: To get things started

I've gotta get the ball rolling

To start from scratch: To start from the beginning

I don't want to start from scratch later

Smart: Clever; intelligent

Choppy: When the sea is choppy the waves are short and irregular

The water was so choppy.

A dope: informal way of describing someone as stupid or slow-thinking

That guy's a dope

To get one's act together: If you get your act together you change from a negative to a positive situation, position or form of behaviour

I thought you were supposed to be getting your act together

To cheat on someone: To betray a partner (e.g. husband/wife) by having a secret relationship with another person

Mom was cheating on you

To be bored stiff: To be incredibly bored

He's gonna be bored stiff

Mahalo: Mahalo is the Hawaiian word for "thank you"

You've lost your mind: You've gone crazy

You've got bigger fish to fry: You've got more important things to do

Twat: A derogatory and offensive word for someone

To keep one's head above water: To manage to survive, especially financially; to keep up with one's work

I'm trying to keep my head above water

Howdy: Informal way of saying "hello" in parts of the US (from "How do you do?")

To figure (out): To deduce; work out

I figured you had to know Brian

To wreck something: To destroy or badly damage

I'm not here to wreck your life

To play it by ear: If you play it by ear you don't have a plan of action but decide what to do as events take shape

We're just playing it by ear

In collaborazione con
In Zusammenarbeit mit

