

Frozen Grand Central

Length: 2.18

Language

Present continuous, future with *going to*

Programme details

This famous video is by *Improv Everywhere*, a group of people based in New York City who create unusual scenes in public places and film them. Since the group started in 2001, it has organised over 100 'missions' using thousands of helpers called 'agents'.

Before you watch

Exercise 1

Match the words with the definitions.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1 mission | a used for talking to a group of people (informal) |
| 2 freezing | b an important piece of work |
| 3 guys | c when you get a signal to do something |
| 4 on cue | d stopping all movement |
| 5 to hold | e to stay in the same position |

Exercise 2

Complete the extract from the video with the words from exercise 1.

'All right. Thanks for coming out, everybody. I'm really excited that all you (1) _____ are here. We've got a really exciting (2) _____ that we're going to be doing today. We're going to be (3) _____ in place (4) _____ at the exact second. We're going (5) _____ that for five minutes and then we're going to unfreeze and we're out.'

Exercise 3

Where do you think the 'mission' is going to take place?

While you watch

Exercise 4

Watch the first part of the video and check your answers to exercises 2 and 3.

Exercise 5

Complete the actions below in as many ways as you can using the words from the box.
e.g. *drinking a bottle of water, drinking a coffee*

a banana a bottle of water a coffee a cup a map a train timetable
a yoghurt or ice cream hands his/her shoelaces his/her watch
on the phone to someone papers

- 1 drinking _____
2 eating _____

- 3 holding _____
- 4 looking at _____
- 5 picking up _____
- 6 talking _____
- 7 tying _____

Exercise 6

Watch the rest of the video. How many of the actions from exercise 3 can you see?

Exercise 7

Watch the video again and make a note of what other people are doing.

Exercise 8

Choose the correct option.

- 1 The pre-mission meeting takes place in *Bryant / Central Park*.
- 2 *107 / 207* undercover agents take part in the mission.
- 3 The mission starts at *14.30 / 16.30*.
- 4 The man driving the yellow vehicle *is / isn't* an agent.
- 5 One person thinks it's *an acting class / a TV show*.
- 6 At the end of the mission people start *clapping / protesting*.

After you watch

Exercise 9

In the video, one person describes the mission as 'the weirdest thing I've ever seen' and another says 'it's cool'. What did you think of the mission?

Exercise 10

Imagine you are taking part in the mission. Decide what action you are doing when you freeze.

Exercise 11

Since 2008, this mission has been repeated by other people in 42 cities around the world in 25 different countries. Has it happened in your country? If you don't know, you can visit the *Improv Everywhere* website to find out and watch more freeze event videos:

<http://improveverywhere.com/2008/02/28/freeze-events-around-the-world/>

Glossary

agent (noun) – person who works for another person

clap (verb) – to show that you enjoy something by hitting the palms of your hands together

cool (adjective) – good

take place (verb) – happen

undercover (adjective) – working secretly

weird (adjective) – strange