

10B The marriage from hell

Reporting people's exact words; Verbs that summarise what people say

Hollywood marriage to end in divorce?

The dream marriage between the 55-year-old film director Jim Small and this year's brightest star, Catherine Hunt, is quickly turning into a nightmare! Small has told Catherine, 32, never to return to their two-million-dollar home in Beverly Hills. Apparently, the couple are already talking to their lawyers about a possible divorce.

Two days ago, Small, who earlier this year cast his wife in the leading role in his new film *My Life Story*, shocked Hollywood by stopping all work on the film. He is refusing to continue unless his wife is replaced by 'someone who knows how to act', although other people have suggested that there are financial problems with the film.

There are also rumours that Catherine's co-star, Peter Rickman, has been ordered to leave the film, too. Is this anything to do with photographs of Catherine and Peter leaving the exclusive new Fresh Earth Restaurant on Sunset Boulevard together?



Rising young star Natasha O'Brien, 22, is being lined up to replace Catherine when – and if – filming restarts, and many people are already asking about Jim Small's relationship with the beautiful young actress.

Watch out for our exclusive interviews with both Jim and Catherine in next week's issue of *Movie World*!

Movie World reporter

You are going to interview both Jim and Catherine. Look at the article again and prepare at least twelve questions to ask them. Make sure you cover the following topics:

- why filming was stopped on *My Life Story*
- financial problems with the film
- Catherine's relationship with Peter Rickman
- Peter Rickman's future on the film
- Jim's relationship with Natasha O'Brien
- why Catherine left the house
- where Catherine is living now
- their marriage
- divorce
- any messages they have for each other
- any other questions you have

During the interview, make brief notes of your answers. You will need them later.



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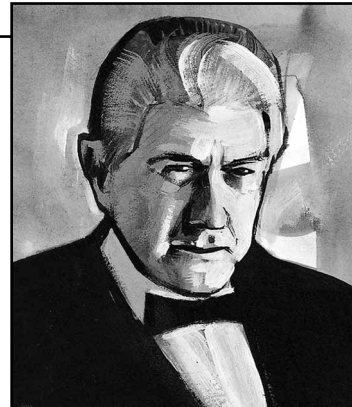
Reporting people's exact words; Verbs that summarise what people say

Jim Small

You are going to be interviewed by a journalist from *Movie World*. Here are some of the main points you want to make during the interview:

- You know the reasons why Catherine left the film. **(What are they?)**
- There are no financial problems with the film. *My Life Story* will definitely be made.
- Your wife's having an affair with Peter Rickman – you're certain of this. **(Why?)**
- You didn't tell Peter to leave the film; he chose to leave. **(Why?)**
- Natasha O'Brien is a wonderful actress – perfect for the film. **(Why?)**
- Natasha is a friend of yours, nothing more.
- Your wife said she would kill Natasha if she took her place on the film!
- Catherine decided to move out of your house. **(Where is she living now?)** You asked her to stay and talk about the situation, but she refused.
- The marriage has been a disaster ever since the honeymoon and it's all your wife's fault. **(Why?)**
- You want to get a divorce. Your lawyers said that it would be dangerous to say anything about it before you go to court. **(Why?)** You won't give her any of your money!

Now think of a final message for your wife:

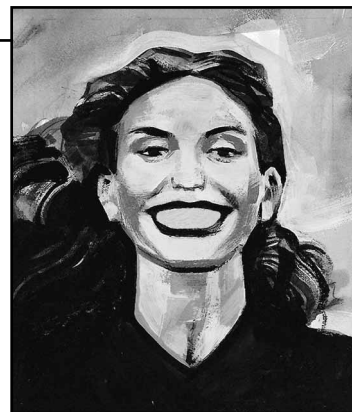


Catherine Hunt

You are going to be interviewed by a journalist from *Movie World*. Here are some of the main points you want to make during the interview:

- You're not having an affair with Peter Rickman – you're just good friends.
- Filming on *My Life Story* was stopped because your husband was jealous of your friendship with Peter. **(Why?)**
- You've heard that there is no money left to make the film. **(Who told you?)**
- Your husband is having an affair with Natasha – you're absolutely certain of this. **(Why?)**
- Your husband ordered you to leave the house. **(Why?)** He said he would kill you if you didn't.
- You went back two days later to collect your clothes, but he wouldn't answer the door. **(Why not?)** You'll report him to the police if he doesn't let you have your clothes soon.
- You're now living with your mother!
- The marriage has been a disaster ever since the honeymoon and it's all your husband's fault. **(Why?)**
- You want to get a divorce. You are going to insist that you get half of his money. **(Why?)** You'll meet your husband at any time to talk about it.

Now think of a final message for your husband:



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Instructions

You will need: one newspaper article per student; one set of two Movie World reporter role cards, one Jim Small role card and one Catherine Hunt role card per group of four students

- Give each student a copy of the newspaper article and ask them to find out what the problems are in the marriage. Check answers with the whole class.
- Give half the class the *Movie World reporter role cards* and tell them to work in pairs and prepare questions. (If there is an odd number of students, have extra reporters.)
- Divide the other half into 'married couples'. Give each couple a *Jim Small role card* or a *Catherine Hunt role card* and tell them not to look at each other's cards. Allow the class time to prepare for the roleplay.
- Rearrange the class so that one reporter is paired with either 'Jim' or 'Catherine'. Reporters then conduct the interview and make brief notes of the answers.
- Now swap the interviewers around so that the reporter who has interviewed 'Jim' interviews 'Catherine' and vice versa.
- Reporters then tell their new interviewee what their wife/husband said and ask them to respond. Encourage reporters to use reporting verbs and reported questions/statements. For example: *When I asked your husband if he was having an affair, he denied it.* Ask the reporters to make brief notes.
- To help students during this stage, write the following verbs on the board as prompts: *say, tell, ask, accuse, deny, threaten, warn, decide, urge, promise, offer, assure, order, suggest, blame, refuse, insist.*
- Students report back to the whole class.
- As a follow-up activity, the reporters can write their article for *Movie World*, and 'Jim' and 'Catherine' can write a letter to their lawyers.