



Segment 9 (Units 17–20)

New Year's resolutions

Genre: Made-for-TV movie

Viewing Time: 2:08

Background Information

Made-for-TV movies are usually made for a lower budget, and with less well-known actors, than movies made for theatrical release. They generally deal with topics such as family relationships, crime, or natural disasters. This scene from a made-for-TV movie is about a lighter topic, making resolutions on New Year's Eve.

In most English-speaking countries, the beginning of a new year is celebrated on December 31st, New Year's Eve. Many people have parties to celebrate the occasion. People also make New Year's resolutions—promises to themselves to do something in the coming year to improve their lives, such as lose weight.

Vocabulary for Comprehension

Preview the vocabulary with your students.

blowout: a big expensive meal or occasion

brand-new: new and never before used

give something up: stop doing something

Everyone could stand to do that: Everyone could benefit from doing that.

heck: said to emphasize a question or statement: "Why the heck not?"

pâté: a smooth soft paste made from meat or fish that you can spread on bread or crackers

resolution: promise to do something

sitter: [baby-sitter] someone who takes care of children while their parents are not at home

Answer Key

Previewing (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. They are friends / Americans.
2. They are in a restaurant.
3. They are eating dinner / celebrating New Year's Eve.
4. It's about making New Year's resolutions.

In-Depth Viewing

1. To watch what he eats
2. He never makes them because he always winds up breaking them
3. steak, baked potato, shrimp cocktail, pâté
4. to exercise more, to spend more time with his family, and to spend less money
5. because the prices on the menu are very high and the man is going to break two of his resolutions: to watch what he eats and to spend less money



Video Script

Margie: If you'll excuse me, I'm just going to the ladies room.

Carla: You know, I'm going to go call the sitter. I'll be right back.

Gabe: OK, I'll see you in a bit.

Andy: Well, this is it, so I guess I'd better make it good.

Gabe: What do you mean?

Andy: Well, it's New Year's Eve and after tonight, let's just say I'm going to be making some major changes in my life.

Gabe: Sorry, I'm not following you. What are you talking about?

Andy: You know, New Year's resolutions! My first one is to start eating right.

Gabe: Oh, that. Well, I guess everyone could stand to eat a little better. But I can't believe you still make New Year's resolutions.

Andy: You don't?

Gabe: No way! I gave that up years ago. I mean, I used to make one every year, but then, I'd usually break it by February, and then I'd feel guilty.

Andy: Yeah. I know what you mean. But, this year will be different . . . This year I have the willpower . . . I'm really going to make a brand new start.

Gabe: Well, good luck to you. Anyway, what are you going to order?

Andy: Well, since I have to start watching what I eat tomorrow, tonight I think I'll have a steak and baked potato with sour cream.

Gabe: Yeah, that sounds good. I'm going to have the same. And I think I'll get an appetizer, too.

Andy: Yeah, why not? What are you going have?

Gabe: The shrimp cocktail sounds good.

Andy: I might have . . . Why the heck not? I'm going to have the pâté to start. Man, I'm not looking forward to having to watch what I eat.

Gabe: I'll bet! Maybe you should just start exercising more.

Andy: Yes, that's my second resolution.

Gabe: You poor guy. How many resolutions are you making this year?

Andy: Too many!

Gabe: What are some of the others?

Andy: Oh, um, spending more time with my family, spending less money . . .

Gabe: Wow, this really is going to be your last blowout then.

Andy: Why do you say that?

Gabe: Have you seen the prices here?