

Netflix on English

Episode 8. WandaVision

**Android, blend in, sitcom, perceptions, hold hostage,
make heads or tails of, grief**

Leon

*****Who's been messing up everything*****

Gary

You are totally addicted to this song!

Leon

Well, it's pretty catchy, don't you think?

Gary

Honestly, I think it's rather absurd, just like our today's series...

Leon

Don't be such a buzzkill! Let's start!

Jingle

Leon

Hello, everyone. This is the Netflix on English Podcast. I'm Leon.

Gary

And I'm Gary.

Leon

And together we netflex on English or, in other words, talk about the vocabulary from the latest films and series on streaming platforms.

Gary

In each episode we tell you a story of main characters from a series or a film using just a few key expressions from it.

Leon

And today we are going to discuss 'WandaVision' – a miniseries about two iconic superheroes from the Marvel universe Wanda Maximoff and Vision.

Gary

So, as I understood, Wanda is a witch who has the power to... do anything she wants?

Leon

Well, she has the power to control things with her mind. For example, she can make objects fly and read people's thoughts.

**Wanda, standing in the kitchen, washes, dries, and stacks dishes with only a wave of her hand. Vision enters and as he crosses to her, a dinner plate smashes into his head and shatters into a million pieces. He has no reaction. **

Vision

My wife and her flying saucers!

Gary

OK... And Vision is **an android**?

Leon

Yes. **An android** is a robot that looks like a normal person. Vision specifically is **an android** made of vibranium – the strongest metal on earth. Vision doesn't need food or sleep and he also has superpowers.

Gary

Like walking through the walls?

Leon

That's right. So, at the beginning of the series, we meet a married couple Wanda and Vision who move to Westview, a small American town.

Gary

Since Wanda is a powerful witch and Vision is a superstrong android, they have to **blend in** somehow.

Leon

That's right. They have to **blend in** or, in other words, look and act the same as people who surround them.

Gary

Yes, I bet it's pretty hard to **blend in** when you are a walking computer...

Mr Hart

No skeletons in your closet, eh, Vision?

Vision

I don't have a skeleton, sir.

Leon

Or when your wife can cook dinner with a wave of her hand. Anyhow, those are not the strangest things about Wanda and Vision.

Gary

Oh yes! For some reason, their life in Westview looks like a typical **sitcom**. A **sitcom** (short for situational comedy) is a TV series with the same characters who are put in funny situations. Like 'Friends', for example.

Leon

The Westview reality looks nothing like Friends though! More like some 1950s black and white **sitcom**! Hey, you might be old enough to remember those...

Gary

Well, I'm not that old, but the first episode definitely looks like '**I love Lucy**' – a very popular 1950s American sitcom which I loved.

Leon

Which I have heard of, but never watched. So, every episode Wanda and Vision try to blend in a new retro sitcom reality.

Gary

I admit, they really nailed the 60s and the 70s. Anyhow, Wanda and Vision feel that everything is not what it seems in Westview. At first, it looks like someone sent them into that world on purpose.

Leon

Let's listen to one of the characters who went to Westview and came back. She was describing her experience to the colleagues who were watching her on TV.

Monica

Everything might look fake in the TV, but everything in there is real.

Jimmy

But Wanda manipulates people's perceptions, makes them hallucinate.

Darcy

Yeah, that's her whole bag.

Gary

So, turns out that Wanda herself created that reality!

Leon

Yes! Apparently, if you enter this world, everything is real, even though it looks fake in the TV. It's all because Wanda manipulates people's **perceptions** and makes them hallucinate.

Gary

So, Wanda manipulates the way people see, understand and think about the surrounding things or in other words, their **perceptions**.

Leon

Exactly! In Wanda's world, your **perception** of yourself becomes totally different! In real life, you can be a secret agent, but in the sitcom-style Westview you think of yourself as just a nosy neighbour!

Gary

That's really weird...anyhow, thanks to Wanda, thousands of people from the Westview town forget who they really are. She was practically **holding them hostage**!

Leon

Well, you could say that. After all, she took away their freedom against their will or in other words, was **holding them hostage**.

Gary

She was also **holding Vision hostage** in a way.

Leon

And it didn't take him long to realise that he was just one of her many hostages...

Gary

But Vision couldn't **make heads or tails of** the situation. In other words, he couldn't understand why Wanda was holding everybody hostage. I feel that guy really... I couldn't **make heads or tails of** the whole series.

Leon

Trust me, you just haven't seen 'Once Upon a Time'. Now that would make your head spin! Anyhow, the S.W.O.R.D. agents also couldn't **make heads or tails of** the Westview anomaly.

Gary

Soon they finally learn the truth just like we do... Turned out the actual reality was far from being a comedy.

Leon

Let's listen to the S.W.O.R.D agent Monica describing the way she felt when she was in Westview:

Hayward

What's the first thing you do remember?

Monica

Pain. And then, Wanda's voice in my head.

Hayward

Did you try to resist?

Monica

There was this feeling keeping me down. This hopeless feeling. Like drowning. It was grief.

Gary

So, all the citizens of Westview heard Wanda's voice in their heads and felt her pain and **grief**.

Leon

Yes, Wanda felt great sadness because someone she loved died. That what's **grief** is.

Gary

I have to admit, Wanda had every right to feel **grief**. Well, let's not get too deep into that, but rather recap the vocabulary.

Leon

Okey-dokey, artichokee! **An android** is a robot that looks like a normal person.

Gary

When you try to **blend in**, it means that you try look and act the same as people who surround you.

Leon

A **sitcom** is a TV series with the same characters who are put in funny situations.

Gary

Perception is the way you understand, see and think about things that surround you.

Leon

If someone **holds you hostage**, it means they take away your freedom of action usually to get what they want.

Gary

If you can't **make heads or tails of** something, it means you cannot understand it.

Leon

And if you feel **grief**, it means you feel great sadness, usually because of the death of someone.

Gary

That's it! Make sure you subscribe to our podcast to hear us netflexing on English from other series.

Leon

That's all for now. So, from Leo...

Gary

And Gary...

Leon

Thanks for listening! Bye-bye!

Gary

Bye!