

# Movie Vocabulary/Idioms

## *Still Killing Us Softly*

(1987. Info at <http://us.imdb.com/Title?0157067>)

I would like to drop a warning about this movie. The language is very difficult, more in *vocabulary* than *idiom*. Have one or more dictionaries (English↔English and English↔mother tongue), and get ready to pause/rewind/restart the tape. This is a very good opportunity to learn how to hear and understand academic speech because the language, although educated, *isn't specialized*. It's not heavy with jargon for a specific discipline, such as genetics, criminal justice, or mathematics).



...personally **exempt**  
from...

Exempt: Excused, not subject to.

The primary purpose  
of TV programs is to  
**round up** an  
audience...for the  
commercials...

To "round up": To herd, as in  
cowboys "rounding up" cattle.



Indeed, she has no  
**pores**...

Pore: a small hole. In this movie, it refers to facial pores;  
the little holes in our faces that give off sweat.

artificial

Something made by a human being, not occurring  
naturally. In the context of the movie, Ms. Kilbourne is  
talking about artificial *ideas*.



Where **natural** peppermint  
flavor comes from  
(*mentha piperata*)



Where **artificial** peppermint  
flavor comes from  
(*Erlenmeyer flask*)

...the woman's body becomes hacked apart, **dismembered**

To dismember: To remove the “members” from a body. “Members” are the arms and legs.

objectification

To objectify: To make an object of, to treat as an object. In the specific case of the objectification of people, this means *dehumanization* (reducing the dignity of or respect for people).

callous

Main Entry: <sup>1</sup>**cal·lous**  
Pronunciation: 'ka-l&s  
Function: *adjective*  
**1 a** : being hardened and thickened **b** : having calluses  
**2 a** : feeling no emotion **b** : feeling no sympathy for others  
Source: <http://www.m-w.com/> (Merriam-Webster Online)

...**pitting** women **against** each other...

To **pit** (something **against** something else): To put one thing into competition against another.

The usage comes the act of pitting (for example) a couple of roosters against each other in a “cockfight.” You get them angry, and put them in “the pit”—a hole that they can’t get out of—which is where they have no choice but to fight.

It's a **self-fulfilling prophecy**

A “self-fulfilling” is a *prophecy* (prediction about the future) which “*fulfills*” (happens, comes to pass) because the people involved are influenced by the prophecy.

Here's a step-by-step example:

1. I predict you will die soon from a heart attack.
2. You believe me.
3. You decide that, since you're going to die of a heart attack anyway, there's no need to exercise or eat right.
4. You stop exercising and eating right. You sit around all day watching TV and eating pork rinds.
5. Your cardiovascular health suffers.
6. This results in your having a heart attack.

But it turns out my prophecy *fulfilled itself*, because of its effect on your behavior.

She was unusually **promiscuous**...

Promiscuous: Sexually hyperactive, having many sex partners over a short period of time.

The whole idea of freedom has been thoroughly <b>co-opted</b> ... <b>co-optation</b> ...	Co-opt: To assume control over, to take over, to absorb into your system. “Co-optation”: Noun form.
The most <b>egregious</b> example of this...	Egregious ( <i>adj.</i> ): Plainly, obviously, and profoundly wrong, evil, illegal, or immoral. Inexcusable.
...and women work for the same reasons men do, primarily <b>sheer</b> economic necessity.	Sheer ( <i>adj.</i> ): Unmixed, simple. Working out of “sheer economic necessity” is the necessity to work for <i>money</i> , and not the other reasons (need for a social purpose, enjoyment of the job, etc.).
Women provide a huge <b>pool</b> of cheap labor...	A “pool” of labor is a general labor resource that you can “tap” (like a keg of beer) to draw off as much labor as you need. Many kinds of resources can be described as “pools”: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a pool of <b>teachers</b> (to work as substitutes)</li><li>• a pool of <b>data</b></li><li>• a pool of <b>earth-moving machinery</b> (owned and operated by a governmental civic projects agency)</li></ul>
...these corporations sometimes <b>give lip-service</b> to equality for women...	Lip-service: Spoken or written support, but not backed by real resources that would provide <i>real</i> support.
This idea... contributes to a <b>climate</b> in which there is widespread...	In this usage, “climate” refers to large-scale, widespread social ideas and attitudes.
This is not an <b>aberration</b>	“This is not a fluke”. This is not an unusual effect or circumstance. This is not an abnormal effect or circumstance; it’s actually quite normal.
Advertising <b>co-opts</b> and <b>trivializes</b> all movements for social change.	Co-opts: See <i>above</i> . Trivialize: To make trivial; to make unimportant, insignificant or even silly.