

Ocean's Eleven

Daniel Ocean (George Clooney), a convicted thief, is being questioned by a parole board about his coming release from prison. He claims a reason for his crime was that his wife, Tess Ocean (Julia Roberts), left him, and when asked what he would do if released from prison, there is no answer. Ocean is paroled from his New Jersey prison harboring dreams of revenge on Terry Benedict (Andy Garcia), the man who stole his ex-wife. Benedict owns three Las Vegas casino-hotels: the Bellagio, the Mirage, and the MGM Grand. All three casinos share one vault, and Ocean plans to assemble a crew to take advantage of this.

His first recruit is old friend and blackjack dealer Frank Catton (Bernie Mac), in Atlantic City. Next, he's off to Hollywood (breaking the terms of his parole, which require him to stay in New Jersey) to reunite with his right-hand man Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt). Rusty is skeptical of Danny's plan but pledges his support and his valuable insight. Together he and Danny go over exactly who they will need in their crew and who they will get to finance the operation. The financier turns out to be the flamboyantly wealthy Reuben Tishkoff (Elliott Gould). Reuben is not interested at first; he says the scheme is unlikely to succeed because of the outrageously tight security around casino vaults. He changes his mind when he learns the target is Benedict, an old enemy of his. Rusty questions Danny's reasons for the heist, not knowing that Danny's real aim is to take down the man who stole his wife. Danny gives Rusty a contrived and humorous speech to digress from the topic, his secret intact.

With Reuben's financial backing secured, we are introduced to the rest of "Ocean's 11." Blackjack dealer Frank Catton gets a transfer to one of Benedict's casinos in Las Vegas to serve as an inside man. The Malloy brothers, Turk (Scott Caan) and Virgil (Casey Affleck), are a humorous pair of car enthusiasts from Utah. In charge of the electronics is the anxious and jumpy Livingston Dell (Eddie Jemison). Basher Tarr (Don Cheadle) is Danny and Rusty's top choice for a demolitions man, but his other project and subsequent arrest require Rusty to rescue him from the cops, which he does by impersonating an arrogant ATF agent. In San Diego they find their "grease man" in Yen (Shaobo Qin), a circus acrobat. Then they guilt old-timer Saul Bloom (Carl Reiner) out of retirement in St. Petersburg, Florida. Bloom's role is to sneak explosives into the vault by posing as a crooked international arms dealer who needs a safe place to stash some "precious stones." With 10 people already committed, Danny goes to Chicago to recruit the young but highly skilled pickpocket Linus Caldwell (Matt Damon), son of the infamous thief Bobby Caldwell. Danny is successful in wooing Linus, and "Ocean's 11" travels to Las Vegas to organize their scheme at Reuben's house. Linus still appears reluctant until Reuben abruptly tells him to "get in the god damn house" with everybody else. Every detail of the plan is laid out for the gang, with the exception of Danny's true motive. Danny believes they can grab over \$150 million from Benedict's casinos on the night of a big boxing match. The team makes camp at the Bellagio and prepares to carry out the theft. They build an exact replica of the vault in a warehouse and Linus is assigned to shadowing Terry Benedict, much to his chagrin. Linus is excited to be included in the group but upset that, with all his skills, he is given little responsibility. During his surveillance of Benedict, he unknowingly reveals Danny's secret to Rusty when he shows Rusty Terry's gorgeous girlfriend, Tess.

Rusty confronts Danny at the warehouse, where Danny admits that Terry and Tess are dating and his intention is to win her back. Rusty is understandably upset and threatens to abandon the project, but Danny assures him the rest of the crew is not in jeopardy of losing their fair share of the score. At this point we see that Tess and Terry's relationship is a little bit awkward and not very close. Danny confronts Tess in a restaurant and admits to her the reason he is in Las Vegas, which makes her angry. But through this hostile interaction we can see that Tess and Danny are far closer than Tess and Terry could ever be. Danny and Tess have a brief conversation before Terry shows up to join Tess for dinner, oblivious to Danny's intentions toward either his money or his girlfriend.

A disgruntled Linus ignores Terry now and starts following Danny to see what he is hiding, at Rusty's request. Furthering Linus' frustration, when the crew takes a detour in California, he screws up and is responsible for the team nearly getting busted. Back at the hotel, the team is worried because Danny has been "red-flagged" and will now be watched wherever he goes in the hotel. With his anger and embarrassment boiling over, Linus reveals to everyone that Danny is after Tess and that is the reason he was caught, and Rusty confesses to Danny that he told Linus to watch him. With Danny now unable to take a step without being seen, he is a liability and Rusty kicks him off the team. The responsibility of "triggering the vault" is given to Linus, a show of respect he had been dying for, but now that the task is actually conferred upon him, he is nervous. As we find out later, the whole situation was created by Rusty and Danny to give Linus the opportunity to play a key role.

To get close to the vault -- and also to keep Terry distracted -- Linus poses as an agent of the Nevada Gaming Commission who comes to Terry with evidence that the Bellagio is illegally employing a convicted criminal as a dealer. The criminal turns out to be inside man Frank Catton, who drags out the interview by accusing "agent" Linus of racism. Terry is so eager to get back to work after this meeting that when, on the way out, Linus claims to have left something behind in the conference room, Terry leaves Linus to show himself out -- which of course he doesn't. Meanwhile, Danny, hanging around the casino floor, pisses off the thugs Terry has assigned to watch him and they drag him off to a back room to be taught a lesson. The "teacher" is an even bigger thug with whom Danny has arranged a trick: the thug throws himself around the room and makes a lot of noise to convince the guys guarding the door that he's beating Danny up, while Danny exits through the ductwork to surprise Linus in an elevator on the way to the vault. Fight Night has arrived and, with everything going according to plan, the team prepares to make the robbery. In their replica of the vault they recorded nothing happening. While Rusty, Saul, Turk, and Virgil distract the vault monitors in the security headquarters, Livingston taps into their computer systems so that all they see from then on is a peaceful vault with nothing happening, although it is not the real vault--just the replica.

With everybody doing their part, Basher cuts power across the city by triggering a "pinch" -- a bomblike device that fries circuitry with a huge electromagnetic pulse. Danny and Linus break into the vault, with help from Yen waiting inside, all unseen by the video cameras. Rusty calls Terry to reveal that he is being robbed. Incredulous, Terry goes to his security center to find that nothing is happening, until the monitors switch and show the three men in the vault packing all the money into black duffel bags marked with X's. In reality, the bags are filled with fliers, not money, per the plan. (*It is to be assumed these fliers and bags were brought into the vault by the team. However, it is easy to tell that they in fact bring nothing with them into the vault. This loophole is admitted to by the director in the DVD's Special Features*). The robbers rig the "money" with explosives and split it into two parts. They threaten to blow up all the money unless Benedict lets them get away with half of it. Upon hearing this, Benedict calls 911 and asks for a S.W.A.T. team, but the team that responds, unbeknownst to Benedict, is the rest of Ocean's crew. (Livingston has hacked their phones and intercepts the 911 call.) Benedict complies with Rusty's demands knowing that the S.W.A.T. team is on the way. With half the "money" in the vault and half the "money" being driven away in a van, Benedict accepts his loss and focuses on catching the culprits by allowing the S.W.A.T. team to enter the vault under cover of darkness. In the dark, the crew stages a confrontation while they are actually loading the real money into bags. During this confrontation, the "money" explodes and Benedict thinks he has lost everything, because the van in which the other half of the money was taken away has also blown up. He comes down to the vault and talks with the S.W.A.T. team on their way out. Here he discovers that both bundles of exploding money were actually just fliers advertising prostitutes. The van was a remote-controlled decoy. He realizes that somebody made a duplicate of his vault, and that he just watched the S.W.A.T. team walk out with ALL of the money.

Terry goes to confront Danny, rightly assuming that he is somehow responsible. Danny slips back into the room where he's supposedly receiving a beating just in time to meet Terry. While never admitting anything, Danny tells Terry that he can get the money back if he's willing to give up Tess, who is watching the scene on closed circuit TV in her hotel room. Terry agrees and Tess is furious. Frustrated beyond belief, Terry gives Danny to the police and he is arrested for violating his parole. Tess finds Danny before the police take him away, and she comes back to him, just as he planned. Everyone in the crew (minus Ocean), \$15 million richer, watches the fountain show in front of the Bellagio to the music of Claire de Lune. Three to six months later, Tess and Danny are reunited outside of the same New Jersey prison from which Danny was released at the beginning of the movie. Rusty drives them off, everyone victorious in every aspect, with Benedict's two thugs in undercover pursuit.

Cast

George Clooney	as Danny Ocean
Cecelia Ann Birt	as Board Member #1 (voice) (as CeCeLia Birt)
Paul L. Nolan	as Board Member #2 (voice)
Carol Florence	as Board Member #3 (voice)
Lori Galinski	as Blackjack Dealer
Bernie Mac	as Frank Catton
Brad Pitt	as Rusty Ryan
Mark Gantt	as Bartender
Timothy Paul Perez	as Security Guard
Elliott Gould	As Reuben Tishkoff
Frank Patton	as Lockbox Carrier
Casey Affleck	as Virgil Malloy
Scott Caan	as Turk Malloy
Eddie Jemison	as Livingston Dell
Jorge R. Hernandez	as FBI Man #1

Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)

Rusty: You'd need at least a dozen guys doing a combination of cons.

Danny: Like what, do you think?

Rusty: Off the top of my head, I'd say you're looking at a Boeski, a Jim Brown, a Miss Daisy, two Jethros and a Leon Spinks, not to mention the biggest Ella Fitzgerald ever.

con = (qui) giochetti (per fare soldi); **off the top of one's head** = così, su due piedi

Terry: All right, you proved your point. You broke into my vault. Congratulations, you're a dead man.

vault = cassaforte

[pretending the Nevada Gaming Commission is racist]

Frank: They might as well call it whitejack!

whitejack = gioco di parole basato sul gioco d'azzardo *blackjack* e il fatto che la Commissione del Nevada aveva fama di essere razzista e quindi chiamerebbe il gioco 'white' (bianco) jack e non black (nero) jack.

Turk Malloy: I'm gonna get out of the car and drop you like third period French.

drop you like third period French = scaricarti come si farebbe con una lezione di francese che si tiene molto tardi, cioè nel periodo peggiore della giornata

Danny: Thirteen million and you drive this piece of shit cross country to pick me up?

Rusty: Blew it all on the suit.

to blow it all = giocarsi/fregarsi tutto; **suit** = seme (delle carte)

Rusty: The Bellagio and the Mirage. These are Terry Benedict's places.

Danny: Yes they are. You think he'll mind?

Rusty: More than somewhat.

You think he'll mind = pensi che gli dispiacerà?

Danny: It's never been tried.

Reuben: Ho, ho... "It's never been tried." It's been tried. A few guys even came close. You know the three most successful robberies in the history of Vegas?

[flashback - the gaming room at the Horseshoe, in black-and-white]

Reuben: [voiceover] Number three, the Bronze Medal - pencil-neck grabs a lockbox at the Horseshoe...

[a man grabs a lockbox out of a guard's hand and runs for the door, and six guards instantly tackle him to the floor]

Reuben: He got two steps closer to the door than any living soul before him.

[cut to the present]

Reuben: Second most successful robbery...

[flashback - the gaming room at the Flamingo, in grainy color. A long-haired man is running for the door, clutching a bag]

Reuben: The Flamingo in '71. This guy actually tasted fresh oxygen before they grabbed him.

[the man gets within a few feet of the door, before a guard smashes him across the face with a nightstick]

Reuben: Of course, he was breathing out of a hose for the next three weeks. Goddamn hippy.

[back to the present]

Reuben: And the *closest* any man has ever come to robbing a Las Vegas casino...

[flashback - outside Caesar's Palace, in color. A man runs out, hunched over an armful of cash, followed by three security guards]

Reuben: Was outside of Caesar's in '87. He came, he grabbed...

[the three guards shoot the thief in the back]

Reuben: They conquered.

lockbox = cassetta di sicurezza

Reuben: Look, we all go way back and uh, I owe you from the thing with the guy in the place and I'll never forget it.

Danny: That was our pleasure.

Rusty: I'd never been to Belize.

Share this quote

Danny: Why do they always paint hallways that color?

Rusty: They say taupe is very soothing.

taupe = (color) talpa; **soothing** = (di cosa) che dà calma, tranquillità

Rusty: Tell me this is not about her, or I am walking. I am walking off this job right now.

Danny: Who?

Rusty: Tess. Terry Benedict. Tell me this is not about screwing the guy who's screwing your wife.

Danny: Ex-wife.

Rusty: Tell me.

Danny: It's not about that.

[*pause*]

Danny: It's not entirely about that.

[*Rusty turns away, furious*]

Danny: Russ, do you remember what we said back when we first got into this business. We said we were gonna play the game...

Danny, Rusty: Like we had nothing to lose.

Danny: Well, I lost something... I lost someone. That's why I'm here.

[*long pause*]

Rusty: Okay, here's the problem ? we're stealing two things. And when push comes to shove, and you can't have both, which are you gonna choose? And remember - Tess does not split eleven ways!

when/if push come sto shove = se le cose si mettono al peggio

Reuben: If you're gonna steal from Terry Benedict, you'd better goddamn KNOW. This sorta thing used to be civilized, you'd hit a guy, he'd whack you, done. But with Benedict... at the end of this, he'd BETTER not know you're involved, not know your names or think you're dead because he'll kill ya, and then he'll go to work on ya.

Danny: That's why we're going to be very careful. Very precise

Rusty: Yeah, well-funded.

Reuben: Yeah. Ya gotta be NUTS, too. And you're gonna need a crew as NUTS as you are!

[*pause*]

Reuben: So who've you got in mind?

to be nuts = essere fuori di testa/pazzo

Danny: Second task, power - on the night of the fight, we're gonna throw the switch on Sin City. Basher, it's your show.

Basher: You want broke, blind, or bedlam?

Danny: How about all three?

Basher: Right, it's done.

to throw a switch = spostare qc in modo che qualcosa si fermi o si muova (qui, metaforicamente, fare un sortilegio alla Città del Peccato)

[*watching Linus trapped on the upper floor by security guards*]

Virgil Malloy: Shouldn't someone help him?

Basher: Oh, that's a good idea, Rabbit. Let's hop out of the van and we can all get nicked!

to hop out = saltare fuori; **to get nickel** = farsi beccare/prendere

Basher: So unless we intend to do this job in Reno, we're in barney.

[*everyone pauses*]

Basher: Barney Rubble.

[*they look bewildered*]

Basher: Trouble!

we're in barney = forma abbreviata di **we're in Barney Rubble** (che in *rhyming slang*, gergo cockney rimato di Londra, fa rima con *trouble* e quindi è come dire **we're in trouble** = siamo nei guai)

Rusty: [*on Danny walking out of prison in a loosened black-tie suit*] I hope you were the Groom.

Danny: [*on Rusty's attire for picking him up from prison*] Ted Nugent called, he wants his shirt back.

Share this quote

Turk Malloy: Watch it, bud.

Virgil Malloy: Who you calling bud, pal?

Turk Malloy: Who you calling pal, friend?

Virgil Malloy: Who you calling friend, jackass?

Turk Malloy: Don't call me a jackass.

Virgil Malloy: I just did call you a jackass.

bud = pal = friend (come appellativo) amico; **jackass** = (appellativo) coglione

Rusty: God, I'm bored!

Danny: You look bored.

Rusty: I am bored!

[*long pause*]

Rusty: How was the clink? You get the cookies I sent?

Danny: Why do you think I came to see you first?

clink = (antiquato) prigionero

Linus: Smash and grab job, huh?

Rusty: Slightly more complicated than that.

Linus: Well, yeah.

smash and grab job, huh? = un lavoretto pulito tipo entri, rubi ed esci?

Danny: You gotta walk before you crawl.

Rusty: Reverse that.

you gotta walk before you crawl = devi camminare prima di strisciare; **reverse that** = inverti l'ordine (cioè prima strisci poi cammini)

Parole Board Member #1: Mr Ocean, the purpose of this hearing is to determine, whether, if released, you are likely to break the law again. While this was your first conviction, you have been implicated, though never charged, in over a dozen other confidence tricks and frauds. What can you tell us about those?

Danny: As you say, ma'am, I was never charged.

Parole Board Member #2: Mr Ocean, what we're trying to find out is was there a reason you chose to commit this crime, or was there a reason you simply got caught this time.

Danny: My wife left me. I was upset. I fell into a self-destructive pattern.

Parole Board Member #3: If released, is it likely you'd fall back into a similar pattern?

Danny: She already left me once. I don't think she'd do it again just for kicks.

confidence trick = truffa; **to do it for kicks** = fare qc per la botta di adrenalina che dà

Terry: Well, then inform Mr. Levin that he'll be better off watching the fight in front of his television at home... Surely *he* must have HBO.

HBO = televisione via cavo

Danny: Livingston, we're set.

Rusty: Livingston, we're set.

Livingston: Basher, we're set.

Basher: Hang on a minute chief.

Livingston: We don't have a minute, Yen's gonna suffocate.

Basher: Then you'd better leave off bothering me, don't you think?

you'd better leave off bothering me = faresti meglio a smettarla di scocciarmi

Explosives Cop: That's all you used in the event, nothin' else?

Basher: Hang on, are you accusing me of boobytrapping?

Explosives Cop: Well, how about it?

Rusty: [*masquerading as an ATF agent*] Booby traps aren't Mr. Torres style, isn't that right, "Basher"? Peck, ATF. Let me venture a guess, simple g form mainliner, backwound, quick fuse with a drag under 20 feet? Yea... let me ask you somethin else did you search this scumbag for booby traps, on his person? I mean really search, not just for weapons?

[*cop shakes head no*]

Rusty: Stand back.

[*shoves Basher against cop car*]

Basher: Oy. here we go

Rusty: Go find Griggs, tell him I need to see him.

Explosives Cop: Who?

Rusty: Just find him, will ya?

booby traps = trappola esplosiva; (fig.) scherzo innocuo

Source: <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0240772/>