

REVIEW

B2

General information

- It is usually written for an English-language **magazine**, **newspaper** or **website**.
- It **describes** and expresses a personal **opinion** about something, and gives the reader an impression of the item.
- **Description** and **explanation** are key functions for this task.
- A review will normally include a **recommendation**.

Extra Help

- Give your review an interesting **title**.
- Use a personal or more neutral style, according to the target reader.
- It is important that you show a **range of structures** in the language of **opinion**, **description** and **recommendation**.
- Add **vivid language** to add interest: plenty of **adjectives**.

Useful Language

- **Giving background:** This show stars... | The book was written by... | The film is about...
- **Books:** main character | is set in | science fiction / thriller / fantasy / mystery / historical / romance ... | cook book / travel book / textbook / manual / coffee-table book ... | atmosphere | plot | author | written by | chapter | factual | unbelievable | bestseller | ending
- **Concerts:** artist | band | musician | (bass / lead / rhythm) guitarist | (backing/lead) singer / drummer / soloist / trio / orchestra | auditorium | hall | venue | lyrics | (catchy) tune | score | gig | conductor | choreography | lighting
- **Exhibitions:** painting | sculpture | handicrafts | gallery | catalogue | display
- **Films:** lead role | star role | star | star actor/actress | starring | secondary role | He plays a ... | written by ... | cast / director / producer | is set in | based on a true story ... | believable | true to life | not very believable | far-fetched | animation | adaptation | comedy | costumes | design | photography | script | special effects | soundtrack | ending | special effects | soundtrack | stunt
- **TV programmes:** Chat shows | current affairs programme | debate | documentary | series | soap opera | sitcom (situation comedy) | Host | presenter
- **Hotels/restaurants:** location | service | (attractive / disappointing) setting | owned by | run by | head chef (restaurant) | waiters (restaurant) | staff | hotel facilities | reasonable prices | good / excellent / poor value for money | (a bit / somehow) expensive | overpriced | not worth the money | always fully booked | book in advance
- **Contrast:** On the plus side,... | On the negative side, ... | On the one hand,... | On the other hand,...
- **Vivid language:** *strong / star-studded / mediocre cast. | The acting is moving / powerful / excellent / weak / disappointing / unconvincing. | The plot is gripping / dramatic / fascinating / suspense-filled / fast-moving. far-fetched / predictable / confusing / dull / unimaginative. | The script / dialogue is touching / witty / hilarious / boring / mundane. | It is beautifully / brilliantly / sensitively / written / directed. | The plot revolves around / involves / focuses on / has an unexpected twist. | The story begins with / unfolds / reaches a dramatic climax when ...*
- **Adjectives: (+)** exceptional | good value | gripping | lively | memorable | perfect | realistic | stunning | superb | well-written | well-acted | well-cooked... | first-rate | entertaining | hilarious | **(-)** disappointing | dreadful | dull | inadequate | poor | predictable | sub-standard | unconvincing | unimaginative | uninteresting | wooden | overlong | over-complicated | amateurish

Useful Language

- **Evaluation:** The script seemed rather *conventional* / *predictable* to me. | The plot struck me as completely *bizarre* / *absurd* / *incomprehensible* | The characters are appealing and true to life | The dancers were quite *brilliant* / *amateurish* | What I liked most was ... | The thing I liked most was ... | I was pleasantly surprised by ... | X would appeal to ... | If you get a chance to ...
- **Recommendations:** I would *highly* / *strongly* recommend ... | I certainly wouldn't recommend ... | I strongly advise you (not) to ... | Everyone should see / do / read this X immediately! | X is not to be missed! | You should give X a miss! | Don't bother *reading* / *seeing* / *going* ... | It is a classic of its kind | It is sure to be a hit/ best -seller | Judging from this *CD* / *show* ... | Overall, if you like X, *you'll love* / *you should* ... | You really *must* / *should* V ... | I would definitely recommend Ving...

Sample Layout

Title

Introduction: *say what you are reviewing and try to get the reader's interest. (title, setting, theme, main characters + personal comment)*

Give your opinion of what you are reviewing linked to the question. Evaluate features such as: acting, characters, directions, style...

Give more details of what your are reviewing. You can also add what you learnt from it.

Conclusion: *Summarise your view. Overall assessment and recommendation. (Why someone should see/read it, how it has influenced you, etc.)*