

# REVIEW

## C1

### 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**.
- 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 | a page-turner | heavy going | a white-knuckle ride | a tearjerker | a laugh-a-minute | a slow start | a gentle introduction | gritty realism | nail-biting conclusion | cliff-hanger ending | far-fetched | compelling tale | enigmatic tale | evocative scenes | compulsive reading | can't put down | lightweight | bedtime reading | the plot unfolds |
- **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 | 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 | special effects | soundtrack | stunt | have her/his name in lights | be a leading light | tread the boards | play to the gallery | crowd-puller

- **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 ... | One particular strength/ weakness of the X is... | The plot struck me as completely *bizarre/absurd/incomprehensible*. | The characters are appealing and true to life. | The dialogue is *witty/stilted/natural/artificial* | The plot lacks originality | The play/film has taken the theatre/cinema-going world by storm | The curtain fell to thunderous applause from the audience.
- **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... | Do not be put off by the title/critics/cover: to make sb lose interest in or enthusiasm for sth. | It will have you roaring with laughter (laugh very loudly). | I would definitely give it a miss (decide not to do sth.) | I would strongly encourage you (not to miss/not to waste your money on ...)

## 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.)