



## Reviews

Reviews are short descriptions of books, films, plays, TV programmes, YouTube channels, etc. They are written to inform readers and viewers, and to give them your opinion/recommendation about whether (or not) they should read a book, or see a film/ play/ etc.

### A review consists of:

- a) a **title** in which you say what you are reviewing.
- b) an **introduction** in which you say what you are reviewing.
- c) a **main body** in which you answer all the questions you are asked, or include all the information you are asked to give.
- d) a **conclusion** in which you say whether you would or would not recommend the book/ film/ YouTube channel and why.



- The **number of paragraphs in the main body will depend** on how many questions you have to answer or how much information you have to include.
- If you are reviewing a book, a film, etc., you **must not reveal the end of the story** to your reader.
- Apart from saying what you are reviewing, a **title should be eye-catching**, so that the reader wants to read your review.
- Reviews can be **formal or neutral** (i.e. not very formal nor very informal). Whether you must use formal or more neutral vocabulary and language will depend on who will read your review, or the intended reader. For example, if you have to write for a website that is read by teenagers, you will use a neutral register.
- You normally use **present tenses** and a variety of adjectives to describe the plot. Using adjectives will make your writing sound more vivid and this will make it even more appealing for the reader.
- A review is not just a list of facts. It is largely your opinion. **Do not forget to give your opinion** on the different aspects you were asked to write about.

### Useful phrases for writing a review

- **Expressing likes:** I really liked...; I thought... worked well; I was really impressed by...; I was pleasantly surprised by...
- **Expressing dislikes:** I found... disappointing; I didn't really like...; I wasn't impressed by...at all.
- **Making recommendations:** I would certainly recommend; I'm happy to recommend this... to....; I think (young/ older) people would really enjoy this... because....
- **Review of books:** This book is based on/ is set in; The main characters are...; This book was written by...; The plot revolves around...
- **Reviews of films/ TV programmes/ plays:** This film/ TV programme/ play stars....; This film/ TV programme/ play is set in....; This film/ TV programme/ play was written by...; The plot revolves around...; In this film/ TV programme/ play.... plays a....role.
- **Review of shops, hotels, etc.:** This shop/ hotel is located in...; The service is good/ poor; This shop/ hotel is run by...; This shop/ hotel is reasonably priced...;This shop/ hotel is overpriced.

#### **⚠ Take into account:**

##### **\* The task:**

- Register: remember that this task asks you to write a review. Reviews can be formal or neutral, depending on the intended reader. That is why you must always read the task carefully.
- Task completion: remember that you MUST include all the information you are asked to.

##### **➢ Number of words (140-190)**

##### **\* Generating and organising ideas:**

- In this case, you are already told what information to include. So you do not need to generate any ideas. You can move directly into organising.
- Remember to organise the information you are asked to include before starting the structuring stage. Once you have done that, you may move on to structuring.

##### **\* Structuring and paragraph division:**

- Divide your writing into paragraphs correctly. If you change the topic, change the paragraph.
- Remember to write topic sentences. They are a good way of organising your paragraphs.
- Use this clean copy of the structure of a for and against essay to write an idea,

paragraph by paragraph, of what you are going to say.

**\* Drafting:**

➤ Write the draft (or rough copy) in a separate sheet of paper and hand it in to your teacher together with the final piece.

**\* Editing:**

➤ Check that the **ideas** you want to convey are **clear enough**. In order to make sure they are, it is important that you keep your ideas simple. It is better to write simple ideas that you could think in English than writing complicated ones that you thought in Spanish and translated into English.

➤ Check that you used a **variety of connectors** correctly.

**\* Proofreading:**

➤ Check your writing for **spelling and punctuation** mistakes.

➤ Check that **grammar and language** are used correctly. Make sure you use a consistent register throughout. That is, if the writing is formal, there must be no instances of informality.

*Let's try it!*

FIRST OF ALL, ORGANISE YOUR IDEAS!



Paragraph 1	
Paragraph 2	
Paragraph 3	
Paragraph 4	



NOW, YOU CAN START WRITING!

