

How to write a review

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A review is a short description of a film/book/TV series/video game etc.

- Usually found in **newspapers, magazines**, on **websites** or even as part of an **email** to a friend
- Inform readers and **give an opinion and recommendation** about what is being reviewed
- The style (**informal, semi-formal, formal**) depends on where the review will appear and who will read it
- **Present tenses** should be used
- A **variety of adjectives/adverbs** make the review more interesting and make the comments clearer

The structure of a review

- Introduction – the background information about the book/film/game etc
(title, name of author/director, type, main characters, actors, what it is about)
- Main body (2 paragraphs):
 - paragraph 1 lists the main points of the plot
 - paragraph 2 gives general comments about
the storyline, characters, the acting/directing/writing, special effects
- Conclusion – a summary of the reasons why the film/book/game is recommended/not recommended

Useful language for an introduction

- This well-written/informative/fascinating/award-winning book
- “.....” is a fantastic book/film/game that was written/directed/created by
- The film/story is set in
- The main character(s) is/are.....
- The film/book/game tells the story of.....
- This work is based on (the idea of)....
- It is a fantasy/historical/mystery/romance/thriller/crime/science fiction book/film about
- It is a simulation/action-adventure/role-playing game

Useful language for the main points of the plot

- The plot focuses on...
- The story begins
- The plot has an unexpected twist
- The plot/game is (absolutely) thrilling/ rather boring
- The film reaches a dramatic climax.....
- The main idea of the game is that the player

Useful language for general comments/opinion

- The script seems clever/exciting/well-written/rather conventional/dull/predictable ...
- The plot is gripping/fast-moving/thought-provoking/complex
- The plot struck me as completely bizarre/absurd/incomprehensible ...
- The cast/characters is/are excellent/amazing/appealing/true to life/weak/unconvincing/awful
- The dialogue is witty/stilted/natural/artificial ...
- It has a tragic/surprising/dramatic ending
- The novel is beautifully/poorly/badly/brilliantly ... written
- The impressive/advanced graphics really bring the to life

Useful language for recommendations

- Don't miss it, it will change the way you see
- It is well worth seeing/visiting/buying
- I thoroughly recommend this
- It's a must-see.
- I wasn't at all impressed with
- This is one to avoid.
- I wouldn't recommend it because ...
- Don't bother seeing / reading/ buying/ going to see this.

La La Land Review

Award-winning La La Land, written and directed by Damien Chazelle, is an enchanting, romantic musical film. The story tells about the trials and triumphs of aspiring actress Mia (Emma Stone) and struggling jazz pianist Sebastian (Ryan Gosling) as they seek fulfillment of big dreams in hard-core Los Angeles.

Mia is an actress who goes on numerous auditions, still waiting for her break. Sebastian is a brilliant jazz pianist who dreams of opening up his own club where great jazz musicians will make beautiful music. After repeatedly running into each other in Los Angeles, they inevitably fall in love. But they soon discover, as many young lovers have before them, how challenging it is to maintain a relationship as you try to find your place in this world. The pursuit of their individual dreams may take all their energies with nothing left for their relationship.

One of many remarkable things about Damien Chazelle's La La Land is how much energy and time it devotes to movement and music. Not one song and dance number in La La Land feels forced and unnatural. Every song feels in sync, every dance feels needed and placed in a way that feels like it's a part of everyday life. Superb casting and performance further enhance the reality-fantasy film's credibility. Chazelle beautifully blends the glamor of "old Hollywood" with innovative, exciting treatment.

If you want to be entertained by astonishing music, dancing, acting, and scenic locations, La La Land is the film for you. The movie will take your breath away and break your heart, as well as it helps you find an even deeper capacity for love.

A review of an event for a teenage website

An English teenage review website is asking for reviews from its readers of a festival/sporting event they have attended. Write a review including general information about the event (time, place, reason, etc), a description of the activities and what you liked about it (120-180 words).

Boat Race Review

The Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race is an exciting sporting event that takes place every year on a Saturday in spring on the River Thames in London. It started in 1829 and is one of the oldest sporting events in the world.

The Boat Race is a fierce rowing competition between two teams: one from Oxford University and the other from Cambridge. The race takes place over a 6.8 km stretch of the River Thames. The river banks come alive with a festival-like atmosphere as hundreds of thousands of spectators gather to cheer on their favourite team.

Many people attend the Boat Race in the Park event in Furnivall Gardens which is free and open to all. It has live music, children's rides, sporting activities and refreshments available to keep people entertained and huge screens to watch all the action.

All in all, I thoroughly recommend the Boat Race. It is a thrilling spectacle that is enjoyed by spectators and a great day out for all ages. This is definitely an event not to be missed.

A review of a place for a school magazine

Recently you have seen this in your school magazine. “Do you go to the sports center or park where you can do extreme sports? If so, write a review, telling us what you like and don't like about it, and whether you recommend it to other people. Your review should be between 140 and 190 words long.”

Mountain Bike Park Review

If you like me a mountain bike fanatic, you'd love the new bike park that's just opened. Teenagers have been asking for something like this for ages and it's amazing.

First of all, the park is just outside the town, so it's not far to go and they've even built a bridge across the main road for easy access. Once you get to the park, you choose the course that suits you. I haven't tried the challenging course for experts yet, as it has some steep climbs on it. The park's already popular with many bikers in the area and there are plans to form a bike club. The only downside is there is only a small shop to buy snacks and drinks, but there are plans to build a restaurant in the future.

All in all, I'd really recommend it to other people who love mountain biking. I think it is the coolest place in our area.

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