

REVIEW

This term, you will have to write a review and do one orally. This is why practice is critical. Today, you have to read the theory to learn how to write a good review and write one yourself. This theory is equally useful for your oral exam: you can use the same structure and the same key sentences, so don't throw this document away, it may help you in the future.

1. STRUCTURE.

TITLE.

- Choose a title for your review (usually the name of the book/movie/tv show/restaurant... being reviewed)

INTRODUCTION.

- This is the first paragraph. Give basic information about the film: title, genre, director, cast and storyline.

MAIN PARTS (2-3 paragraphs)

- In paragraph 2, describe the plot without revealing the ending. (No spoilers, thank you!)
- In paragraph 3, say what was good or bad about the film/ book/ restaurant/ hotel... Reviews can be good, bad or neutral. We listen, but we don't judge your opinion!

CLOSING PARAGRAPH

- Would you recommend the film? why / why not? For whom? (all ages? teens? children?...)

2. LANGUAGE.

OPENING REMARKS:

- The film is set in... , This fascinating film is ... , This film is directed by..., This film is based on a novel..., This is a ___ (insert genre here), This movie, starring well-known actress (insert actress' name here)...

MAIN PART:

- The plot focuses on..., The story begins..., The plot was a twist in..., The plot is absolutely thrilling, touching, surprising...
- It is rather confusing / long / slow, The cast is excellent..., The script is both (adjective) and (adjective)..., It has a tragic/surprising/happy ending...
- The theme song is powerful, the colour in the photography is natural/ spectacular/ dark..., It's just one laugh after another.

CLOSING REMARKS

- I would highly recommend going to see this film on the big screen / It will give you tears of laughter/ Don't miss it! / It is worth seeing! / Fans of... will be thrilled with this / I would not recommend this because... / don't bother with this one!

3. TIPS

- Use idioms to enhance your level: "a rollercoaster of emotions", "blow your mind", "steal the show" are examples that you can use in a review.
- Use adverbs and adjectives to make the text more descriptive: "absolutely", "completely", "extremely", "definitely".
- This is a more informal type of text so you can include contractions, exclamations and questions.

ACTIVITY 1.

Put the phrases in the box into the correct column. After doing the exercise, study them to improve your vocabulary for your review.

convincing acting, disappointing performance, amazing special effects, striking lighting and visual effects, forgettable soundtrack, talented cast, lead actors have no chemistry, well-developed characters, poor character development, gripping storyline, confusing plot, dull and unoriginal script, has you on the edge of your seat, slow-paced, fast-paced, predictable ending, disappointing ending, hilarious script, forced humour, a feel-good movie, lacks emotional impact, authentic emotional depth, expert costume and set design, unrealistic scenes, unnecessary scenes, effective direction, poor direction, memorable scenes, strong opening, worth watching, has plot holes.

NEGATIVE	POSITIVE

ACTIVITY 2.

Fill in the blanks in the review using these words: over-the-top acting, confusing plot, not worth watching, unnecessary scenes, slow-paced, disappointing, emotional depth, bad pacing, fails to engage the audience, predictable.

Paddington 2

Paddington 2 is a family comedy film directed by Paul King. It stars well-known actors, but the film is not as good as expected.

The story starts with Paddington living happily with the Brown family, but soon the film becomes _____ (1), with very little exciting action. Many scenes are _____ (2) and easy to guess, so the audience can see what will happen next. In the middle, the movie _____ (3) and some moments feel like _____ (4), which do not help the story at all.

The acting is not always good. Some actors are _____ (5), and the main characters lack _____ (6), which makes it hard to care about them. At times, the plot is _____ (7) and the movie also has _____ (8), with long scenes that make it hard to stay interested.

The music and visual effects are okay, but they cannot save the film. Overall, the movie is _____ (9) and it is _____ (10) for most viewers, especially for those who want an exciting and original story.

ACTIVITY 3. Write a review of a TV show (keep it school-appropriate). On pages 52 and 160, you have 2 examples that serve you as models.