

A REVIEW

We write a review to provide your opinion, as well as useful information about an event or experience you have had, eg of a restaurant, a product, a film, a book or a concert. In your review, you describe the place or the product, explain what you can do or what happened and give your opinion. You can find lots of examples of film and product reviews online, and you can even practise writing one yourself.

Note: In an exam, if you are asked to describe a place you like, you can use many of the elements of a review.

MODEL TASK: What TV shows have you been watching lately? Write a review of one explaining what it's about, what happens and why you enjoyed it.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

I recently watched ...
 The [series / film] is available on ...
 It's basically about ...
 [name of series / film / book] tells the story of ...
 It's set in (time or place) ...
 What I particularly enjoyed was ...
 The most / least interesting thing about ... is ...
 Despite the ... I would strongly recommend this [series] because ...
 If you like ..., you'll absolutely love ...

Tips

- ▶ In the introduction, include information about when you had the experience and give some essential information about it (eg the location of a place, the director of a film/series, etc).
- ▶ Include a statement giving a general opinion.
- ▶ Give details and explain which aspects of the experience or content you particularly liked and give reasons.
- ▶ Point out a negative aspect, if relevant, that you think some people might not like. Try to be constructive in your criticism.
- ▶ Recommend the experience and give a specific reason for your recommendation.

YOUR TURN Write a review of a TV series that you would not recommend or that you did not enjoy, explaining your reasons.

Include a title.

All about *Stranger Things*

Begin with some essential information and highlight some general impressions.

You don't have to have grown up in the 80s to appreciate *Stranger Things*. I recently watched the first three episodes of Season 1 and I'm already hooked. This series is available on Netflix, it's a mix of horror and science fiction, and its fascinating characters and gripping plot have made me fall in love with it.

You can either describe one aspect you specifically enjoy or write about a possible negative aspect.

The series is set in a small town in Indiana in the 1980s and tells the story of a woman whose son, Will, goes missing on his way home. We soon find out that Will's disappearance might have something to do with a mysterious creature. What I particularly enjoy are the scenes with Will's friends, and one of the most interesting characters is Eleven, a weird young girl with strange abilities who helps Will's friends.

One downside of the show is that there are some quite scary scenes which some people may not enjoy. Overall, however, the plot is fascinating and the atmosphere is wonderfully dark at times.

Despite the scary parts, I would strongly recommend *Stranger Things*, especially to fans of horror films and thrillers.

Provide some details for the reader about the setting and story. Point out an aspect you particularly like.

Finish with a recommendation following on from what you said in the previous paragraph.