

Writing a review

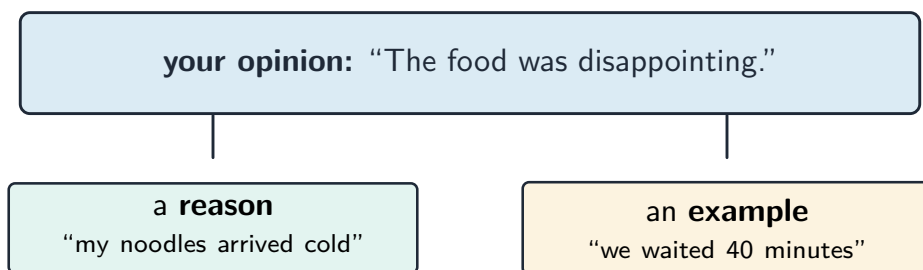
IGCSE English

What a review does

A **review** 评论 tells readers about something you have tried —a film, a book, a restaurant, or a place. A good review helps the reader **decide** 决定 whether to try it too.

Describe and judge

- A review does two things: it **describes** 描述 the thing, and it gives your **opinion** 观点 of it.
- Balance the two. Do not only describe, and do not only give opinions.
- Describing answers "*What is it like?*" Judging answers "*Is it any good?*" Move between the two, sentence by sentence.



an opinion with nothing under it falls over – support every opinion

An opinion stands on a reason and an example

Support your opinions

- Give reasons for what you think. Say **why** it was good or bad.
- Use **examples** 例子 from your experience to make your view **believable** 可信.
- A weak review says "*The food was nice.*" A strong review says "*The soup was rich and warming, though the rice arrived cold.*" The detail is what convinces the reader.

Useful language

Learn a few phrases 短语 for each job. Then you never stare at a blank page.

- **To describe:** *It is set in... / The story follows... / The dish combines... / What stands out is...*
- **To praise:** *The best part is... / I was impressed by... / It really succeeds in...*
- **To criticise** 批评 (gently): *The one weakness is... / It could have been better if... / At times it feels slow.*
- **To recommend:** *I would recommend it to... / It is well worth... / Don't miss...*

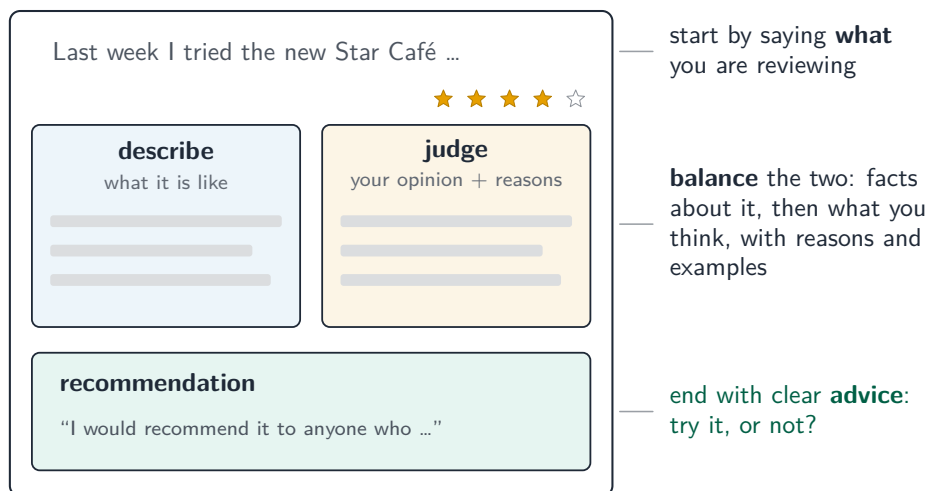
Mix praise and criticism so the review sounds **fair** 公正. A review that is all praise, or all complaint, is hard to trust.



A theatre audience: reviews describe what you saw, give a clear opinion and support it with evidence

How to build a review

Readers want a clear, helpful review.



A review describes and judges, then ends with clear advice

Structure

- Start by saying what you are reviewing, and give the reader the basic facts.
- In the middle, describe it and **evaluate** 评价 it —the good points and the weak points.
- Write for a general reader, in a friendly but clear **tone** 语气.

End with a recommendation

- Finish with a **recommendation** 建议: do you advise the reader to try it or not?
- Make your advice clear, for example: *"I would recommend this film to anyone who likes adventure."*
- You can add a condition: *"...as long as you don't mind a slow start."* This sounds honest and grown-up.

A model review

Read this short review of a film. Notice how each sentence either describes or judges.

Skyward is an adventure film about a girl who builds her own aircraft. The story is simple, but the flying scenes are **breathhtaking** 惊人 and the young lead acts with real warmth. The middle drags a little, and a

few jokes fall flat. Even so, it left the whole cinema smiling. I would recommend *Skyward* to any family looking for a bright, hopeful evening —just be ready for a slow first ten minutes.

Count the moves: it names the film, describes it, praises it, admits two faults, and ends with a clear, honest recommendation. That is a complete review in five sentences.

Exam tips

- Name what you are reviewing and your overall feeling in the first paragraph; do not keep it secret.
- Do both jobs: describe it (what it is) and judge it (what is strong, what is weak).
- Strong adjectives are the fuel of a review: gripping, delicious, disappointing, unforgettable.
- Mention one weakness even in a good review; pure praise sounds like an advert.
- Finish with a clear recommendation: who should try it, who should not, and why.