Exercise walk-through

14.1
Reading: blogs, reviews and articles

English B1

ENGLISH B1 • EXERCISE SHEET

14.1 Reading: blogs, reviews and articles

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 25 marks**

KEY WORDS blog • review • fact • opinion • recommend

Objective

Read **blogs** , **reviews** and short **articles** . Find the writer's **purpose** , separate **facts** from **opinions** , and compare two texts on the same topic.

You must be able to:

- find the purpose of a text
- separate facts from opinions
- understand words from the context
- compare two reviews

- write a short, balanced review

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Key knowledge

text	purpose	features
blog	to share experiences and feelings	I, informal, personal stories
review	to give an opinion and advice	good and bad points, a rating, recommend / don't recommend
article	to inform or explain	facts, numbers, a neutral tone

fact	opinion
can be checked: "The hostel is 200 metres from the station."	a feeling or judgement: "The location is perfect."

Opinion words: *amazing, terrible, I think, the best, too, a bit, recommend.*

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Source A: a travel blog post

Day 3 in Xi'an! This morning we cycled on the old city wall. It's about 14 kilometres long, and it took us almost two hours to go all the way round. My legs are tired, but it was the best thing I've done this year! In the evening we went to the Muslim Quarter for dinner. It was crowded and noisy, but the food was delicious. Tomorrow: the Terracotta Warriors!

Source B: two online reviews of the same hostel

Review 1 (rating: 5 out of 5): Great hostel! It's only five minutes' walk from the metro and the staff are really friendly. The rooms are small but very clean. Highly recommended.

Review 2 (rating: 2 out of 5): The location is good, but my room was next to the kitchen, so it was very noisy until midnight. The Wi-Fi didn't work in the evenings. Not great for people who need to study or work.

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Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Use Source A. (a) What is the purpose of the blog? (b) How long is the city wall? [2]

2.2 Use Source A. Find (a) one fact; (b) one opinion; (c) one word that means “with a lot of people”. [3]

Exercises 2.1–2.2

2.1 Use Source A. (a) What is the purpose of the blog? (b) How long is the city wall? [2]

2.1

(a) to share the writer's experiences of a trip; (b) about 14 kilometres

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2.2 Use Source A. Find (a) one fact; (b) one opinion; (c) one word that means "with a lot of people". [3]

2.2

(a) e.g. the wall is about 14 km long; it took almost two hours; (b) e.g. "the best thing I've done this year"; "the food was delicious"; (c) crowded

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Use Source B to complete the comparison table. [4]

	Review 1	Review 2
good points		
bad points		

2.4 Use Source B. (a) In what way do the reviews agree? (b) Why is the second review less positive? Give two reasons. (c) You need to study in the evenings. Would you stay at this hostel? Use information from both reviews to explain. [6]

Exercises 2.3·2.4

2.3 Use Source B to complete the comparison table. [4]

	Review 1	Review 2
good points		
bad points		

2.3

Review 1 good: near the metro, friendly staff, clean; Review 1 bad: small rooms; Review 2 good: location; Review 2 bad: noisy, Wi-Fi did not work

2.4 Use Source B. (a) In what way do the reviews agree? (b) Why is the second review less positive? Give two reasons. (c) You need to study in the evenings. Would you stay at this hostel? Use information from both reviews to explain. [6]

2.4

(a) both say the location is good / near the metro; (b) noise from the kitchen; Wi-Fi did not work in the evening; (c) a clear decision with evidence from both reviews, e.g. clean and close, but noise and Wi-Fi are a problem for studying

Exercise 3.1 (a)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(a) The main purpose of a review is to

- **A** tell a story
- **B** give an opinion and advice
- **C** sell a product
- **D** give instructions

Exercise 3.1 (a)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(a) The main purpose of a review is to

- **A** tell a story
- **B** give an opinion and advice
- **C** sell a product
- **D** give instructions

(a) B

Exercise 3.1 (b)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(b) Which is a fact?

- **A** The staff are really friendly.
- **B** The hostel is five minutes from the metro.
- **C** It is the best hostel.
- **D** The rooms are lovely.

Exercise 3.1 (b)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(b) Which is a fact?

- **A** The staff are really friendly.
- **B** The hostel is five minutes from the metro.
- **C** It is the best hostel.
- **D** The rooms are lovely.

(b) B

Exercise 3.1 (c)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(c) “Highly recommended” means the writer

- **A** does not like it
- **B** strongly suggests it
- **C** is not sure
- **D** wants a refund

Exercise 3.1 (c)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(c) “Highly recommended” means the writer

- **A** does not like it
- **B** strongly suggests it
- **C** is not sure
- **D** wants a refund

(c) B

Exercise 3.1 (d)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(d) A blog is usually

- **A** personal and informal
- **B** very formal
- **C** a list of rules
- **D** an advertisement

[4]

Exercise 3.1 (d)

3.1 *(Four choices, one correct. One mark each.)*

(d) A blog is usually

- **A** personal and informal
- **B** very formal
- **C** a list of rules
- **D** an advertisement

[4]

(d̀ ́) A

Exercise 3.2

3.2 Write a short review (60 to 80 words) of a café, a shop or an app you know. Include two good points, one bad point, at least one fact and one opinion, and a recommendation. [6]

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3.2 Write a short review (60 to 80 words) of a café, a shop or an app you know. Include two good points, one bad point, at least one fact and one opinion, and a recommendation. [6]

3.2

One mark for each correct letter; a written answer earns marks for each clear, relevant point, as listed. two good points; one bad point; a fact; an opinion; a recommendation; clear organisation within the word range