

Reading: blogs, reviews and articles

English B1

What this topic teaches

B1 reading meets three grown-up shapes: the **blog** (personal, chronological), the **review** (verdict plus reasons), and the **article** (balanced, sourced). Each shape has a spine; find the spine and the text reads itself.

- A blog: one voice, one experience, feelings allowed.
- A review: verdict first or last, reasons always, and the reviewer’s needs on show.
- An article: two sides, quoted voices, and no naked opinion.
- Memory hook: read the **spine** first, then choose how much flesh you need.



Three shapes, three spines: find the spine and the text reads itself

The blog: one voice, feelings allowed

Blogs are diaries with readers. The voice says I, the time is personal, and the purpose is to share, not to prove.

- Structure: a hook (a moment or a question), the experience in time order, a reflection at the end.
- The last paragraph usually carries the lesson or the invitation to comment.
- Language signals: past tense for the events, present tense for the feelings now.

The review: verdict, reasons, needs

A review is a judgement with evidence. Find three things: the VERDICT, the REASONS, the REVIEWER’S NEEDS.

Part	Signals	Example
verdict	stars, best ever, not worth it	Overall, 4 out of 5.
reasons	because, the service, the price	The noodles were great because they were fresh.
needs	for me, as a student	For me, the price matters most.

- A review’s truth is personal: the same cafe can be a 5 for dates and a 2 for studying.
- Spot the balanced review: it names one strength AND one weakness before the verdict.

The article: two sides, quoted voices

Articles report. The writer hides behind sources, and the structure is a see-saw: side A, side B, balance.

- Quoted voices carry the opinions: *The mayor said the plan would...*
- Numbers arrive with sources: *According to a 2024 survey, 60 percent...*
- The final paragraph zooms out: what happens next, no verdict.

■ A first try

Label each sentence: blog, review or article?

- *I finally tried the new noodle place, and honestly? Best broth in town.* (review)
- *According to the city council, the bridge will close for six months.* (article)
- *After three rainy days, the sun came out, and so did everyone in the street.* (blog)

Unknown words: the spine decides

At B1, unknown words are expected. Let the shape guess their job.

- In a review, adjectives near the verdict are judgements: *the service was sluggish* – negative by position.
- In an article, a noun after a source is a topic word: look at the headline, not the dictionary, first.
- Read the sentence, then the paragraph, then decide if the word matters.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- The headline is a promise, not the article: read the first paragraph before judging the topic.
- Not every number is a fact: look for according to, about, nearly – hedges soften numbers.
- A blogger's opinion is not an article's finding: check whose voice is speaking.

Check yourself

- Which shape: one voice with feelings, or quoted voices with hedges?
- A review has three parts: name them.
- Hedge check: 60 percent, or nearly 60 percent - which is softer?
- Where does a blog usually put its lesson?