

## What is a review?

In a review:

- You usually have to explain how a product, service or artistic creation (a book, film, magazine, play, concert etc.) is suitable for a particular purpose or group of people.
- You will probably need to write about strong/weak points or positive/negative aspects.
- You might have to give a brief description of the thing you're reviewing.
- Sometimes the task requires you to compare two things, such as songs, films etc.

A language-learning magazine has asked for reviews of websites that readers use to help them learn English. The review should **briefly describe the content** of the website, **explaining why the reader finds it useful**. You should also comment on at least **one thing that could be improved** and say **who this website is most useful for**.

Write your **review** in 220-260 words.

### THE ONLY LANGUAGE-LEARNING WEBSITE YOU'LL EVER NEED

The English Hub is, **without doubt**, one of the most useful websites for learning English that I have ever come across. Aimed at advanced learners, it contains a wealth of resources which **will undoubtedly help you** on your English language-learning journey.

A brief introduction.

**Divided into** two sections focused on reading and listening, you'll find plenty of **authentic** audio files and texts, each of which is followed by an activity designed to help you increase your knowledge of English vocabulary. **What** this website does particularly well is that it focuses on interesting collocations, phrasal verbs and idioms, all **essential** for mastering English at an advanced level. Another element that stands out is the live dictionary - click on any word on the website and you'll get an instant definition from a **reputable** dictionary!

Briefly describe the content.

Explain why it's useful.

**As you can see**, I'm a big fan of The English Hub but there are, **unfortunately**, a couple of areas where it falls short. **Firstly**, some of the links to the audio files and texts are broken, making it impossible to do the tasks. There needs to be a **thorough revision** of all the links to avoid user frustration. **On top of that**, including a larger variety of sources, such as videos, advertisements, news clips, scripts and even poems would increase the range, appeal and usefulness of the website.

comment on something that could be improved.

If you are a beginner or intermediate learner of English, this website **is not for you**. **However**, for those more advanced learners who really want to **immerse** themselves in **authentic English**, you couldn't ask for a better set of materials. **Nowhere else** on the internet have I found such an interesting and useful set of resources.

Say who the website is useful for.

create a personal and friendly tone.

Show knowledge of varied grammar, vocabulary and tenses.

## FAQs (Q. = Question / A. = Answer)

**Q. There are so many different things I might have to write about in a review. How do I know what kind of language to use?**

**A.** When writing a review, it is very important to analyse exactly what the task asks you to do. Highlight the key points in the task before you start writing. This will help you to focus on what exactly you're being asked to do.

**Q. What tone do I write a review in - formal/informal/neutral?**

**A.** A review is normally written in a neutral tone. When you're writing it, it's very helpful to think about who will read the review. For example, if it's for a travel magazine, imagine the kind of person who will read the text and think about what kind of language would keep them interested in reading to the end.

**Q. How can I write in a neutral tone?**

**A.** Don't use very formal language. For example:

It is believed that the first album by The Clash is their best. (too formal)

The Clash's first album is by far their best.

Moreover, it is essential that you swim in the Olympic-sized swimming pool. (too formal)

As well as that, don't miss out on the chance to swim in the Olympic-sized swimming pool.

**Q. How can I make my review interesting and catch the reader's attention?**

**A.** Use some of these features of neutral/informal writing:

- rhetorical questions
- exclamation marks
- personal language and experiences
- idiomatic language (similes, metaphors, idioms, phrasal verbs)

**Q. Should I give my review a title?**

**A.** Yes, it's a good idea. Don't spend a long time trying to think of a brilliant title but choose one that doesn't copy words from the task, if possible.

## Tips and tricks

- Writing a review gives you an opportunity to use lots of great grammar and vocabulary.
- Use adverbs to give your opinion:
    - Regrettably
    - Fortunately/Unfortunately
    - Thankfully
    - Sadly
- Unfortunately, one area where the film falls short is the special effects which are really poor.
- Thankfully, the staff were very helpful and they allowed us to change room immediately and without any extra charge.



Use adjectives and adverbs to write rich descriptions:

Try to add descriptive language where possible.

delicious food ..... mouthwatering food  
a great holiday ..... a fantastic trip away  
extremely disappointed ..... bitterly disappointed

Make comparisons:

- This is by far the best album that this band has produced.
- The food on the children's menu was not nearly as healthy as that on the adults' menu.
- The more you watch, the more gripped you become.
- The computer was a great deal more expensive on this website than on that one.

Use phrases that cause inversion that are suitable for the themes in reviews:

Nowhere else ...

Nowhere else have I found a better resource for learning English.

No sooner ... than ...

No sooner had we gone to bed than the music from the disco downstairs started.

Little ...

Little did I know that I am actually a person who loves adventure sports!

Rarely ...

Rarely is the film better than the book - but in this case it most certainly is.

Under no circumstances ...

Under no circumstances would I recommend visiting this restaurant.