**Writing a book/film review**

Follow these steps to write a book or film review.

**Pre writing**

Remember and take notes of the plot of the story. What impression did it produce on you?

**Writing**

* **Introduction:** give the title and author of the book. If you're reviewing a film mention the director or actors.
* **Body:**
1. Summarize the plot in a few sentences.
2. Mention the setting: the place and time of the plot.
3. Say something about the main characters.
4. Say something about the content.
* **Conclusion:**1. Ccomment on the book or film.
2. Let others know whether or not you liked the book/film.
3. Why do you like it? Why don't you like it?
4. Is the author's style good or bad, is the book / film interesting or boring etc.
5. Do you want to recommend the book/film?

**Useful Expressions:**

  **Title, Author / Director, Actors**

The film is directed by
The film is produced by..
The book is written by ...

**Setting**

The action takes place in ... (setting)
The action of the film is set in ...
The story takes place in...

**Characters and Plot**

The main characters are ...
The story is about ....
The novel tells the story of ...
In the course of the novel the action develops dramatically.
The novel / film begins with...
The novel has an unexpected ending.
The end of ... is ...

  **Reaction**

I am impressed by
I think ....
The book is terribly / beautifully written
The film is terrible / exciting.
What surprised me is ...
What I liked is...
What I didn't like is...
I liked/didn't like the film / novel because ...

**The first paragraph** of a movie review usually includes the following elements

A short summary of the movie including its genre.

Information about the director and important stars.

A comparison to a similar movie - for example a sequel, other movies by the same director or with the same actor.

**The second paragraph** of a movie review is usually a short summary of the plot of the movie. This can be quite challenging. While you need to summarize everything in the movie within a few lines, you also have to be careful not to give away too much about what happens at the end of the movie.

**The third and final paragraph** of a movie review usually has your overall opinion of the movie. Some parts may get a favourable review - perhaps the acting - while other parts will be criticised - perhaps the plot. The summary should then end with a clear recommendation - to see or not see the movie.

Vocabulary

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| ***Movie reviews***

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| **(+) Positive** |
| ***Special effects:*** |
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| Spectacular scenes |
| Technically and visually stunning |
| A compelling work of science-fiction |
| An eye-opening expose |
| Chock full of high-tech dazzling action |
|  |
|  ***Comedy:*** |
|  |
| You'll laugh till it hurts |
| An offbeat but touching romantic comedy |
| Light and entertaining |
| Spiced with plenty of humor and affection |
| A funny political satire |
| gut-busting laughs |
|  |
|  ***Thriller/horror/mystery/suspense:*** |
|  |
| Mammothly entertaining stuff |
| Dark, thrilling and mysterious |
| A clever, heart-pounding thriller |
| Suspenseful expose |
|  |
| ***Actor/character performance:*** |
|  |
| Charismatic leads |
| Brilliant performance |
| Unprecedented success |
| Refreshingly honest and utterly charming |
| A well-acted, intensely shot, action filled war epic |
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| ***Movie review vocabulary*** Movie reviews include different elements of the movie including: * Director – the person who directed the movie
* Rating – Star Ratings1-5 number of stars, 5 stars is the best review
* Starring – the names of the actors in the movie
* Producer – the person/company that produced the movie
* Based on – used when a movie is based on a book
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| ***Movie genres**** Action/Adventure – fighting, chases, explosions, and fast scenes
* Animation – computer-animated or hand drawn characters
* Comedy – funny, funny, and more funny
* Documentary – story about someone or something that actually took place in history
* Drama – emotionally charged personal challenges
* Foreign – any movie not in English
* Horror/Thriller/Suspense/Mystery – dark, scary and bloody scenes
* Kids/Family – fun for the whole family
* Romance – a love story
* Sci-Fiction/Fantasy – not a true story, but based on make-believe, full of imaginative ideas and special effects
* Musical – story told with song and dance
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### Useful Adjectives for Describing Movies: Here is a list of vocabulary that reviewers often use when describing movies.  They are divided into two categories, positive and negative.

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| Positive:  | insightful  | clever  |
| charming  | comical  | charismatic  |
| enjoyable  | uproarious  | original  |
| tender  | hilarious  | absorbing  |
| sensitive  | riveting  | intriguing  |
| powerful  | fascinating  | pleasant  |
| surprising  | dazzling  | thought provoking  |
| imaginative  | legendary  | First-rate  |

**Useful expressions**

**blood-curdling scenes**

**mind-blowing plots**

**keeps you on the edge of your seat**

**hair-raising stunts**

**heart-rending plot**

**feet-tapping music**

**captivating scenery**

**engrossing plot**

**eyes glued to the screen**