

Reviews

What are reviews and why do we write them?

A review is a summary, analysis and an evaluation of a text resulting in an opinion or judgement. Reviews aim to summarise/analyse a text and assess its appeal and value to its audience. This can include factual and literary texts and creative arts which can be found in print, radio and television.

What structure is needed in a review?

A review includes:

- context and background information - This includes a title, author/artists/composer, and a brief summary of the particular topic, issue or thing.
- text description - This includes an analysis of significant features such as character(s) settings, descriptions, themes, graphics, actors, genre, producers, etc.
- conclusion - This concludes an evaluation of the text and gives a recommendation that attempts to persuade the audience to do something.

What are the main language features to be taught?

Language of opinion

For example: **I really enjoyed** the part of the book where....

Language of cause and effect

For example: These events occurred **due to the result of**....

Language of evaluation/judgement

For example: **I would definitely recommend**...

What other features are there?

Language of description

For example: Rebecca is a **funny, imaginative little** girl.

Language of modality

For example: I **would probably** recommend.... **I definitely** recommend.

Tense

Present Tense, for example, Mrs. Claus **tries** to help Mr. Claus.

Simple Past Tense, for example, Mrs. Claus **hid** behind the cupboard.

Past Continuous Tense, for example, Mrs. Claus **was writing** a letter as Mr. Claus tried to leave.

Language to indicate time/sequence

For example: **At the beginning of** the book...

What skills are needed and developed when writing reviews?

Summarising, synthesizing and analysing.