* **A REVIEW** is usually written for an English-language magazine, newspaper or website.
* **The main purpose is to describe and express a personal opinion about something** which the writer has experienced (e.g. a film, a holiday, a product, a website etc.) and to give the reader a clear impression of what the item discussed is like.
* **Description and explanation** are key functions for this task, and a review will normally **include a recommendation** to the reader.

STEPS

1. **give your review an interesting title**.
2. In the first paragraph, **say what you are reviewing** and try to get the reader’s interest.
3. In the second paragraph **give your opinion of what you are reviewing linked to the question**.
4. **Summarise your view**, using different words from the introduction, **and include a recommendation**.
5. **Phrases you can use in the introduction:**
6. This well-written/ informative / fascinating/ thought-provoking book is…
7. The film/ book/ play/ etc. is set in….. / tells the story of…../ is based on…..
8. The film/ play starts …../ is directed by…../ is the sequel to…..
9. The plot revolves around …involves …/focuses on …/has an unexpected twist.

The story begins with …/unfolds / reaches a dramatic climax when …

**Comparing and contrasting**

* … is even better than …
* … is (not) nearly as good as …
* … is twice as good as …
* … is the best I have ever seen / read / been to. in comparison with …
* One of the strongest / weakest things about …
* In contrast, … / On the other hand, …

**What I liked**

* What I liked most was …..
* The thing I liked most was …
* I was pleasantly surprised by
* ….. would appeal to …..
* It is beautifully/brilliantly/sensitively written/directed.

**What I disliked**

* What I disliked most was …..
* I was disappointed by/with ……
* The script/dialogue is touching/witty/hilarious/boring

**Criticism**

* The script seemed rather conventional/predictable to me.
* The plot struck me as completely bizarre/absurd/incomprehensible
* The characters are appealing and true to life
* The dancers were quite brilliant/amateurish
* The only criticism I would make is that …

**Recommendations**

* Judging from this CD / show …
* Overall, if you like …, you’ll love / you should …
* Although some of … he/she/it’s still a great…
* You really must/should buy/see/read/visit …
* I would definitely recommend seeing/visiting/reading/having a look at …
* If you get a chance to ….
* Although I enjoyed it, I would not recommend it for….