

## Proficiency Writing Part 2: Useful expressions and ideas to be used in Review

### **Register: Informal / neutral**

Use: all your colorful vocabulary:

Phrasal verbs / idioms / impressive collocations.

### **Forms and conventions:**

Title: for films / books / restaurants use the name / title or if think up an imaginative title using an idiom / expression.

### **Planning, 6 step system:**

1. Read task, underline content points.
2. Divide content points into paragraphs: Intro, décor, ambiance, service, food, recommendation.
3. WHAT do you want to say? Add your notes to each paragraph in simple form.
4. How are you going to say that? Brainstorm advanced grammar and vocabulary for each note.
5. Forms and conventions: Title paragraph titles, fixed introduction.
6. Write! Remember word limit is: 220-260

### **Introduction:**

*Personal anecdote to grab attention. Enter name of book / film, restaurant + location, course, TV show etc.*

Seldom do I find the time to ..., however when I do take time out of my hectic schedule, I like nothing more than ...

Being a bit of a film buff / book worm / foody, the news that ... had opened a new restaurant / released a new film / book had me to try / see / read it. So last week I popped down with a friend to check it out.

Having never seen / read / tried ... before I approached ... with a sense of trepidation, not knowing what to expect. Soon however, all my fears were allayed.

### **Book reviews:**

*Vocabulary to describe the book in general:*

a page-turner / a white-knuckle ride / a tearjerker / a laugh a minute / I could not put it down.

*Vocab to describe specific parts:*

a slow start / a gentle introduction / gripping climax / nail-biting conclusion / cliff-hanger ending / a shocking twist in the tail

### **Setting:**

The book is set in \_\_\_\_\_ (place / time)

The action takes place in \_\_\_\_\_ (place / time)  
 the present day (now)  
 an alternate reality where vampires / wizards walk the earth  
 a sleepy village in the USA  
 the bustling city of New York

**Plot:**

The plot centers around / focuses on (the adventures / lives of \_\_\_\_\_)  
 The plot follows the adventures of \_\_\_\_\_ (character name)  
 Characters:  
 Villain / hero / heroine / anti-hero / main character / protagonist  
 The characters are believable / well-crafted / a 2 dimensional bit.

**General Film / TV reviews:**

An all-star cast  
 heavily influenced by the films of ..  
 glowing reviews  
 startling originality  
 suspense builds up  
 a polished performance  
 a bold experiment  
 an accomplished actor  
 an unmitigated disaster (bad film)  
 to dazzling display of his / her talents  
 Made a lasting impression on me.  
 Brought to tear to my eye  
 Like watching paint dry (boring)  
 I was on the edge of my seat (exciting)

A blockbuster (big commercial film eg Superman)  
 ... sets off an amazing chain of events  
 Gripping film (exciting)  
 The director / author evoked a magical atmosphere  
 ... awakened my interest in ...  
 Hold my attention  
 Capture the audience's imagination.  
 Spectacular set-pieces (main action scenes)  
 ... is cast in the role of ...  
 ... is miscast in the role of ...  
 ... gives a convincing performance as ...  
 The film is let down by a clichéd script.

**Restaurant review:**

Hearty meal  
 Wholesome food  
 Piping-hot  
 Succulent / juicy (meat)  
 Creamy  
 With a kick (spicy)  
 Crunchy / crispy  
 Well-seasoned  
 Packed with flavor  
 A steaming plate of ..  
 Hungry / starving / ravenous / famished  
 Bustling eatery (restaurant)  
 Lively atmosphere

Service with a smile  
 A plate piled high with..  
 Mouth-watering  
 To die for  
 Heavenly  
 To lick your lips in anticipation  
 Roast  
 Pan-fried  
 Grilled  
 Steamed  
 Freshly-baked  
 Make a pig of one's self  
 To feast / gorge on (eat a lot of)

To eat / drink to your heart's content  
Devour / gobble up  
Savor  
Nibble  
Bite

Lick  
Aromas wafting from the kitchen  
Cheap - economical / reasonably-priced  
Expensive - pricey / costs an arm and a leg  
€ 20 to head (per person)

### Critics Lines:

Were I to sum up ... in one word, it would be ...  
... left a lot to be desired (was not good enough)  
... more than lives up to the hype (is as good as everyone says it is)  
... is by far and away the best ... you're likely to ... this year  
... really raises the bar (sets a higher standard)  
... sets the benchmark for other (others will be judged against how good it is)  
... ticks all the right boxes  
... holds up well in comparison with ...  
... comes off badly in comparison with ...

### Grammar check list

Have you included?

- An investment (not only / no sooner / seldom)
- An inverted conditional (Were we to ...)
- A participle clause (Being ... / Having gone ...)
- A double comparative (The more we ... the more)
- A cleft sentence (What is most crucial is ...)
- Idioms
- Phrasal verbs