

# LESSON 191

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## Writing a review

Please note: There are writing homework titles at the end of this book.

**overview**

**assessment**

**verdict**

**A review:**

- is a piece of writing that tells the reader about a place, event, book, film, or other product, and also gives the writer's opinions on it. We find reviews in newspapers and magazines, or on websites;
- is intended to help the reader decide if they want to buy the product, watch the film etc;
- normally contains three main parts: an overview, an assessment, and a verdict.

**stand out**

**blend**

**portion**

**enthusiastic**

### **Porthole (London Bridge)**

There are several new places to eat in the London Bridge area, but Porthole certainly stands out from the rest. This large restaurant, spread over two floors, overlooks the river, and is within easy walking distance of both London Bridge and Waterloo stations.

(1) Start with an overview to give the reader some basic facts about whatever you are reviewing.

Porthole serves a reasonably priced and exciting blend of European and Asian cuisines. The menu contains enough variety to satisfy most tastes, and includes an interesting range of vegetarian dishes. On my visit, both my food and that of my companion was cooked to perfection, and portions were generous.

(2) Include an assessment, giving your opinions, both positive and negative.

*Service is friendly and enthusiastic*, although the restaurant was very busy on my visit and we had to wait patiently for our order to be taken. The only other slight negative is perhaps the drinks menu. This may well improve over time but, at the moment, the selection is rather poor. There are only two types of tea available, for example, and *the wine list is somewhat limited*.

However, what will bring me back to Porthole again and again is *the view*. London's historic river stretches out in front of you, with the Tower of London and Tower Bridge right nearby. At night especially, the river and the buildings along its banks make a marvellous sight, and Porthole has been fitted with enormous floor-to-ceiling windows that enable diners to appreciate this fully.

(3) Give your overall verdict at the end, and recommendations if appropriate.

Overall, Porthole is a *great new place*. If you like restaurants with a lively atmosphere, it's the perfect choice for a casual evening out with a few friends or even a major birthday celebration. With its delicious food and wonderful views, you're guaranteed an experience to remember.

### In reference to writing, what do we mean by a review?

By a review, we mean a piece of writing that tells the reader about a book, film, event or other product, and also gives the writer's opinions on it

### Where do we normally find reviews?

We ... in newspapers, in magazines, on websites etc.

### What's the purpose of a review?

The ... to help the reader decide if they want to buy the product, watch the film etc.

### What three parts can we normally expect a review to contain?

We can ... an overview, an assessment, and a verdict

### What's the purpose of the overview?

The purpose ... to give basic factual information about the product, event etc.

### What does the assessment tell us?

The assessment tells us the writer's opinions regarding the positive and negative aspects of the product, event etc.

### 1195 What does the verdict do?

The verdict gives the writer's overall conclusion, and recommendations regarding who the product or event might be suitable for

**legend****myth**

Which kind of story is more likely to have some basis in historical fact: a legend or a myth? A legend ...

**trundle****wagon**

What do I mean if I say "The farm wagon trundled along the road"?  
 If ..., you mean that the farm wagon moved noisily, in a heavy and slow manner

**commemorate****wreath**

What do we call a circular arrangement of leaves or flowers that we can use to commemorate a victory or death, for example? We call ... a wreath

**spell****deposit****heatwave**

If the world were to run out of oil deposits, do you think it would spell disaster around the globe? Yes, if the world ... ~ No, if the world ...

What do we mean by a spell of bad luck? By ..., we mean a brief period of bad luck

What's a heatwave? A heatwave is a spell of exceptionally hot weather

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**stand to****gamble**

If I gave you a stock market tip that meant you stood to gain a lot of money, would you follow my advice? Yes, if you ... ~ No, if you ...

Give me some other examples of "stand to", please. You must be crazy to gamble like that; you stand to lose everything you've got. As the only child of a wealthy businessman, she stands to inherit a fortune.

**raft**

If you were shipwrecked on a desert island, do you reckon you'd be able to build a raft and escape? Yes, if I ... ~ No, if I ...

How would you do it? I'd ...

## wade

Is it possible to wade across a very deep river?

No, it isn't ...

Why not?

Because, to wade across, your feet need to be able to touch the bottom of the river

## grapple

What does the verb "grapple" mean?

The verb "grapple" means to hold something firmly and struggle with it

1197 Give me an example, please.

The policeman grappled with the criminal on the balcony

## predecessor

## live up to

Is it hard for the new manager of a football club to live up to fans' expectations if his predecessor was very successful?

Yes, ...

## first and foremost

## pickle

Give me an example of the expression "first and foremost", please.

In the past, the practice of pickling fruit and vegetables was first and foremost in order to preserve the food for as long as possible

## in store

## build up

## downpour

When heavy black clouds build up across the sky, is it reasonable to assume a downpour is in store?

Yes, when ...

Have you got anything in store for next weekend?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

## presently = soon

Give me a sentence with the word "presently" in it.

The ceremony will commence presently, once all the principal guests have arrived

**betray****execute**

What happens to somebody who's caught betraying their country?

Somebody ... is imprisoned or perhaps even executed

**waddle****penguin**

Name an animal that waddles when it walks.

The name ...  
a penguin (a duck etc.)

**utter****contempt**

Have you ever spent a whole day without uttering a single word to anyone?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Is there anybody in the world that you feel utter contempt for?

Yes, ... ~ No, ...

Who?

**canoe****paddle**

Describe a canoe, please.

A canoe is a narrow open boat designed for one or two people, which we move by paddling

**jab**

What am I doing?

You are jabbing your hand with the point of your pen

1199 What do I mean if I say "The doctor gave me a jab"?

If ..., you mean the doctor gave you an injection

**dangle**

What does the verb "dangle" mean?

The verb "dangle" means to hang or swing loosely or limply

Give me an example, please.

After the climbing accident, I was left dangling on the rope for more than an hour before I was rescued

## topple

If a pile of plates is too high, what's likely to happen? If ..., it's likely to topple over, and the plates will smash

## that's that

When do we use the expression "that's that"? We use ... to convey that a conversation, situation or process is definitely finished

Give me some examples, please. You cannot watch TV till your homework is done, and that's that!  
The police know you stole the car, so that's that.  
I just have to knock in one last nail and that's that.

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### Word pool 4: revision exercise

For each sentence below, choose one word from the word pool that fits correctly in the gap.

<b>edible</b>	<b>flexible</b>	<b>elegant</b>	<b>bland</b>	<b>parallel</b>
<b>ample</b>	<b>fertile</b>	<b>sensational</b>	<b>diplomatic</b>	<b>sinister</b>
<b>extinct</b>	<b>biased</b>	<b>grim</b>	<b>solitary</b>	<b>naked</b>

- 1 There's no need to hurry; the meeting's not until 3pm so we've got \_\_\_\_\_ time.
- 2 Some flowers are actually \_\_\_\_\_ and can be used in salads to add both colour and flavour.
- 3 How can you say the competition judge wasn't \_\_\_\_\_ towards the winner? It was her daughter!
- 4 The weather forecast for the match is fairly \_\_\_\_\_; let's stay in and watch it on TV instead.
- 5 In the dream, I suddenly realized I was \_\_\_\_\_, and, of course, I felt incredibly embarrassed!

- 6 Working in a team with others was hard to get used to after his more \_\_\_\_\_ life as a writer.
- 7 The vegetables are fine but they're slightly \_\_\_\_\_, so I'm going to add just a little salt.
- 8 Most of the bird species discovered on the island are now \_\_\_\_\_, but some still survive there.
- 9 All the good bars are on the street that runs \_\_\_\_\_ to the one where our hotel is located.
- 10 After years of conflict, the countries are finally talking, as \_\_\_\_\_ relations have been restored.
- 11 I like this restaurant; the soft lights and antique furniture create a very \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere.
- 12 He may be perfectly harmless but he looks so \_\_\_\_\_ that people find it hard to trust him.
- 13 Winning such a massive contract would be a \_\_\_\_\_ result for a small company like ours.
- 14 She's not at all \_\_\_\_\_; I don't think she could even bend down and touch her toes!
- 15 I've been looking after the soil in my garden and it's far more \_\_\_\_\_ now than it used to be.



This design flaw/ is supposedly our fault,/ but they can't sue us./ My dog growled at me/ when I removed the bone/ that it was chewing on./ Tim blushed at the mention of/ the mysterious blonde girl/ I'd seen him with./ I watched in awe/ as the other team thrashed us,/ scoring four goals in fifteen minutes./ I'll endeavour to stay awake/ but may well doze off./ I acknowledge/ I have no flair for art./ A draught is usually annoying./ whereas a breeze can be pleasant./ The kids watched in sheer delight/ as the ducks waddled/ towards the water's edge./ The veins on the back of my hands/ are especially visible in hot weather./ Drought, ledge, hurtle, biased, wreath.

## Phrase exercise answers

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### Phrase exercise 1

1 to	6 angle	11 record
2 loan	7 times	12 worlds
3 in	8 out on	13 on
4 region	9 nothing	14 role
5 a matter	10 board	15 minds

### Phrase exercise 2

1 b	6 c
2 c	7 c
3 b	8 b
4 a	9 a
5 b	10 b

### Phrase exercise 3

1 at	6 a view	11 time
2 take	7 in	12 at
3 get	8 cutting	13 within
4 contrary	9 aid	14 stop
5 have an ear	10 ahead of	15 for

### Phrase exercise 4

1 in	6 on	11 back
2 on	7 strike	12 on
3 in	8 low	13 symbol
4 strictly	9 in	14 in
5 through	10 at	15 stem



## **Word-building exercise answers**

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### **Word-building exercise 1**

1 facial	6 directory	11 refusal
2 expansion	7 talkative	12 comparable
3 publication	8 settlement	13 persuasive
4 significance	9 preservation	14 problematic/ problematical
5 coverage	10 declaration	15 inclusive

### **Word-building exercise 2**

1 provision	6 misinformed	11 insistent
2 supposedly	7 realization/ realisation	12 notably/ noticeably
3 uninviting	8 attendants	13 exclusive
4 cancellation	9 dismissal	14 privatizing/ privatising
5 humanity	10 capability	15 supportive

### **Word-building exercise 3**

1 destructive	6 precaution	11 bankruptcy
2 cooperation	7 implications	12 occurrence
3 disastrous	8 distribution	13 distinctive
4 inexhaustible	9 beggars	14 assumption
5 inspection(s)	10 exploration	15 insecure

### **Word-building exercise 4**

1 inappropriately	6 recognition	11 inclusion
2 contestant	7 descendant	12 complimentary
3 chaotic	8 resignation	13 disrespectful
4 stability	9 incomprehensible	14 unobservant
5 globalization/ globalisation	10 disposal	15 knowledgeable

## **Word pool revision exercise answers**

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### **Word pool 1**

- |           |              |            |
|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1 flair   | 6 dormitory  | 11 suburb  |
| 2 flaw    | 7 escalator  | 12 client  |
| 3 penalty | 8 bench      | 13 heir    |
| 4 napkin  | 9 recreation | 14 victim  |
| 5 gadget  | 10 maid      | 15 academy |

### **Word pool 2**

- |           |             |              |
|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 cellar  | 6 alien     | 11 rage      |
| 2 wolf    | 7 density   | 12 parade    |
| 3 toddler | 8 catalogue | 13 bruise    |
| 4 feat    | 9 pond      | 14 concrete  |
| 5 prey    | 10 debut    | 15 deodorant |

### **Word pool 3**

- |             |             |               |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1 vest      | 6 fist      | 11 vegetation |
| 2 solicitor | 7 carpenter | 12 mustard    |
| 3 fluff     | 8 triumph   | 13 forgery    |
| 4 awe       | 9 crust     | 14 tuition    |
| 5 crockery  | 10 runway   | 15 cord       |

### **Word pool 4**

- |          |               |                |
|----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 ample  | 6 solitary    | 11 elegant     |
| 2 edible | 7 bland       | 12 sinister    |
| 3 biased | 8 extinct     | 13 sensational |
| 4 grim   | 9 parallel    | 14 flexible    |
| 5 naked  | 10 diplomatic | 15 fertile     |

### **Writing homework titles**

*The length of each piece of writing should be between 200 and 250 words.*

#### **Lesson 180 (Writing a story)**

- 1 Write a short story that starts with the words "There was a knock on the window ...".
- 2 Write a short story with the title "The key".
- 3 Write a short story that finishes with the words "... but it'll continue to live forever in my memory."

#### **Lesson 185 (Writing an essay)**

- 1 Discuss the following statement: "The internet is killing the high street; it will never recover."
- 2 What makes a true friend?
- 3 Some people feel they should be allowed to keep a gun in their home for protection. What is your opinion?

#### **Lesson 187 (Writing an article)**

- 1 Write an article for a website aimed at people planning to visit your country on holiday. Using the title "You simply have to go there!", write about two different places in your country that you feel all tourists should visit.
- 2 Write an article for a magazine about a hobby or activity that you love. In the article, you should describe the activity, talk about your personal experience of it, and try to make the reader want to take it up.
- 3 Write an article for a university magazine called "Coping on your own". The article should provide helpful tips to students on how to manage when they are living away from the family home for the first time.

**Lesson 191 (Writing a review)**

- 1 You attend a college that is looking for reviews of films to publish in its monthly magazine. Choosing a film you have seen recently, write a review for the magazine.
- 2 You work as a journalist for a local newspaper. Write a review for the newspaper of a new nightclub that has opened for young people in the area.
- 3 Choosing any new product you have bought in the last few months, write a review of the product for an online shopping website.

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