



Culture and Traditions

Review: reviewing an international food festival

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What can people learn from a cultural food festival?
2. Which traditional food would you recommend to a visitor?
3. What problems can happen at a busy festival?

Exercise 6 at a glance

Write a review, often for a student magazine.
Use an engaging title.
Describe key features clearly.
Evaluate positives and negatives.
Make a clear recommendation.

2. Exam-style task

Your school recently organised an international food festival. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the festival for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the international food festival to help you:

'The cooking demonstrations were fascinating.' 'Some queues were far too long.'
'I tried food from three countries.' 'There were not enough seats.'

Now write a review of the international food festival for your school magazine.

The comments may give you some ideas, and you should also use some ideas of your own.

Write about 120 to 160 words.

3. Model review

A Tasty Trip Around the World

Have you ever travelled around the world without leaving school? Our international food festival came surprisingly close to making that happen.

The event took place in the playground after lunch, with stalls run by students, parents and teachers. Each stall offered small dishes from a different country, so visitors could try a wide range of flavours and hear short explanations about them.

The highlight was definitely the cooking demonstrations. They were short, lively and easy to understand, and I learnt why some dishes are eaten during festivals. I also enjoyed trying snacks from Japan, Mexico and Thailand.

On the other hand, the festival was almost too popular. Some queues were far too long, and there were not enough seats for families who wanted to stay and chat.

Overall, I would recommend this festival to students and families interested in food or culture. Next time, extra seating and more serving tables would make it much more comfortable.

4. Explore the model: structure, content and tone

Work with the model review. Underline, label or make short notes.

Focus	What to find	Done?
Review structure	Find the title, hook, key facts, description, opinion and recommendation.	
Content point 1	Where does the writer describe the festival and its purpose?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with practical problems?	
Audience and tone	Find two places where the review sounds lively or suitable for the reader.	
Development	Find one extra detail, example or personal reaction that improves the answer.	

5. Language from the task prompts

The task prompts can guide your grammar and content choices. Notice which language each prompt naturally needs.

Prompt	Useful language	Why it fits	Example from the model
what the event was like	descriptive phrases + variety	You are showing the reader what visitors could experience.	stalls run by... / a wide range of flavours
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	The highlight was... / On the other hand...
recommendation	recommendation + improvement	You are saying who would enjoy it and adding a practical suggestion.	I would recommend... / would make it...

6. Build a clear review

Notice how review phrases help you move from the opening to the final recommendation.

Job	Useful review phrases
open with key details	Have you ever...? / came surprisingly close / took place in... / with stalls run by... / a different country / a wide range of...
evaluate positives	The highlight was definitely... / I also enjoyed...
balance negatives	On the other hand... / almost too popular
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who... / Next time...

7. Vocabulary and useful review phrases

Use chunks that sound natural for this review. You can also upgrade your writing with precise words and phrases.

Purpose	Useful chunks / language	Add your own
describe the festival	international food festival / stalls / small dishes / different country	
describe positives	cooking demonstrations / lively / wide range / learnt why	
describe negatives	queues / far too long / not enough seats / crowded	
sound review-like	Have you ever...? / The highlight was... / On the other hand...	
recommend	anyone interested in food or culture / extra seating / more comfortable	

8. Plan your own review

Use the same task, or change the details to a similar event, place, service or activity.

Prompt	My idea	Useful language
title and opening		
description / key features		
what visitors enjoyed		
problems or drawbacks		
recommendation		

9. Write your own review

Write a review for the task. Cover all the prompts, develop your ideas and make your opinion clear.

Review title _____

10. Self-check and peer-check

Success criteria	What to check	Self	Peer
Content	All task points are covered and developed with relevant details or examples.		
Review structure	The answer has an engaging title, clear opening, description, evaluation and recommendation.		
Audience and tone	It sounds lively, clear and suitable for the audience in the task.		
Prompt-led language	Language fits the task, such as descriptive detail, evaluative language, contrast, too/enough and recommendation language for a specific audience.		
Cohesion	Ideas connect naturally with linkers such as however, overall, because, so and though.		
Vocabulary	Useful chunks, topic words and precise review phrases improve the review.		
Accuracy	Spelling, punctuation and sentence control are clear enough for the reader.		
WWW:			
EBI:			