



Food and Eating Habits

Review: reviewing a healthy snack bar

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a snack bar attractive to students?
2. Would healthy food be popular at school? Why?
3. What might put students off buying healthier snacks?

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

A healthy snack bar has recently opened at your school. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the snack bar for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the healthy snack bar to help you:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 'The fruit smoothies taste amazing.' | 'Some snacks are too expensive.' |
| 'There are more choices than before.' | 'The queue moves slowly at break time.' |

Now write a review of the healthy snack bar 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

Fresh, Filling and Almost Worth the Queue

Can healthy food actually be popular at school? After trying the new snack bar this week, I think it has a real chance.

The snack bar is next to the canteen and sells wraps, fruit pots, smoothies and oat bars. It looks bright and clean, and the menu is much more interesting than the old vending machine by the hall.

The best item was definitely the mango smoothie. It tasted fresh without being too sweet, and the wider choice means students can pick something filling without grabbing crisps every day.

However, the snack bar is not perfect yet. Some items are quite expensive, especially for younger students, and the queue moves slowly at break time because there is only one member of staff serving.

Overall, I would recommend the snack bar to students who want something healthier between lessons. If prices were lower and service were quicker, it could become a regular favourite.

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 snack bar and what it sells?	
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 drawbacks?	
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 place is like	descriptive detail + comparison	You are helping the reader picture the snack bar clearly.	looks bright and clean / more interesting than...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	The best item was... / However...
recommendation	recommendation + conditional	You are giving a final opinion and suggested improvements.	I would recommend... / If prices were...

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	Can healthy food actually be popular...? / next to the canteen / sells... / bright and clean / much more interesting
evaluate positives	The best item was definitely...
balance negatives	However... / not perfect yet
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / If prices were...

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 snack bar	snack bar / wraps / fruit pots / smoothies / oat bars	
describe positives	fresh / filling / wider choice / healthy snack	
describe negatives	expensive / queue moves slowly / break time / one member of staff	
sound review-like	Can healthy food...? / The best item was... / However...	
recommend	healthier snack / lower prices / quicker service / regular favourite	

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 / menu		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

