



## Future Plans and Ambitions

Review: reviewing a careers podcast

### 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What careers advice is useful for teenagers?
2. Would you rather learn from a talk, video or podcast?
3. What can make careers advice feel boring or unrealistic?

#### 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 class recently listened to a new careers podcast for students. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the podcast for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the careers podcast to help you:

'The interviews felt realistic.'      'Some episodes were too long.'  
'I liked hearing from young employees.'      'The sound quality was uneven.'

**Now write a review of the careers podcast 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

#### Career Talk That Sounds Real

Can a podcast make careers advice feel less distant? I listened to three episodes of Career Talk, and it was more useful than I expected.

Each episode includes an interview with someone in a different job, from graphic design to engineering. The style is relaxed, so it feels more like a conversation than a formal careers lecture, which makes it easier to keep listening.

The strongest feature is the choice of guests. The interviews felt realistic because the speakers talked honestly about training, mistakes and first jobs. I especially liked hearing from young employees who had only recently started work.

On the downside, some episodes were too long for a busy school week. The sound quality was also uneven, which made one interview harder to follow.

Overall, I would recommend the podcast to students thinking about future careers, especially those who are unsure where to start. Shorter episodes and clearer sound would make it even easier to use.

## 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 podcast and its format?	
Content point 2	Where does the writer develop positive opinions from the comments?	
Content point 3	Where does the writer balance the review with weaknesses in delivery?	
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 podcast is like	descriptive phrases + examples	You are explaining the format and giving context.	Each episode includes... / from... to...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	The strongest feature... / On the downside...
recommendation	recommendation + improvement	You are saying who it would help and how to improve it.	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	Can a podcast make...? / listened to three episodes / includes an interview / relaxed / more like a conversation
evaluate positives	The strongest feature is...
balance negatives	On the downside... / harder to follow
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / Shorter episodes...

## 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 podcast	careers podcast / episode / interview / graphic design / engineering	
describe positives	realistic / honest / training / first jobs / young employees	
describe negatives	too long / uneven sound quality / harder to follow	
sound review-like	less distant / more useful than I expected / On the downside...	
recommend	future careers / shorter episodes / clearer sound / easier to use	

## 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 / format		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

