



## Home and Local Area

Review: reviewing a community garden

### 1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes a local place worth visiting?
2. How can a community garden help an area?
3. What problems might visitors notice in a public space?

#### 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 new community garden has recently opened near your school. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the garden for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the community garden to help you:

- 'The flowers make the area look brighter.'      'There are not enough benches.'  
'The vegetable beds are interesting.'      'Some paths are muddy after rain.'

**Now write a review of the community garden 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 Small Green Space With Big Potential

Can a small garden change the feel of a neighbourhood? The new community garden near school certainly makes the area look more welcoming.

The garden has flower beds, vegetable patches, a small pond and narrow paths between the plants. It is not huge, but it feels peaceful compared with the busy road nearby, especially in the afternoon.

The flowers are the first thing visitors notice because they make the entrance look bright and cheerful. The vegetable beds are also interesting, especially for younger children who may not know how food is grown locally.

However, the garden still needs a few improvements. There are not enough benches, so visitors cannot sit for long, and some paths become muddy after rain.

Overall, I would recommend the garden to students and families who want a quiet local place to visit after school or at weekends. More seating and better paths 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 garden and its features?	
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 place is like	descriptive detail + comparison	You are helping the reader picture the place.	has flower beds... / compared with...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	the first thing visitors notice / However...
recommendation	recommendation + improvement	You are saying who would enjoy it and adding practical suggestions.	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 small garden change...? / near school / has flower beds... / peaceful / compared with...
evaluate positives	the first thing visitors notice / also interesting
balance negatives	However... / still needs...
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / More seating...

## 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 garden	community garden / flower beds / vegetable patches / small pond	
describe positives	brighter / welcoming / peaceful / interesting	
describe negatives	not enough benches / muddy paths / after rain	
sound review-like	big potential / certainly makes... / However...	
recommend	quiet local place / more seating / better paths / 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 / atmosphere		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

