



The Natural World

Review: reviewing a nature trail

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What makes an outdoor trail interesting to visit?
2. How can signs or activities help people learn about nature?
3. What might make an outdoor place difficult to use?

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 nature trail has recently opened near your school. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the trail for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the nature trail to help you:

'The birdwatching area is peaceful.'

'Some signs are hard to read.'

'The pond activity was interesting.'

'The path gets muddy after rain.'

Now write a review of the nature trail 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 Quiet Walk With Plenty to Notice

Can a short walk make you notice the natural world differently? The new nature trail near school does exactly that, especially if you slow down and look carefully.

The trail runs beside the playing fields and includes a pond, a birdwatching area, tree labels and small information boards. It is not a long route, but it feels calm compared with the rest of the school site.

The birdwatching area is the most peaceful part because students can sit quietly and spot different species. The pond activity was also interesting, as it showed how much life can exist in one small space.

However, some signs are hard to read because they are too low or partly covered by plants. The path also gets muddy after rain, so it is not ideal for every day.

Overall, I would recommend the trail to students who enjoy being outdoors or want a calmer break. Clearer signs and a firmer path would make it 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 trail 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 outdoor 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 trail is like	descriptive detail + contrast	You are helping the reader picture the route.	runs beside... / calm compared with...
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	most peaceful part / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who would enjoy the trail.	I would recommend... / students who enjoy...

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 short walk make you notice...? / beside the playing fields / includes... / not a long route / feels calm
evaluate positives	most peaceful part / also interesting
balance negatives	However... / path gets muddy
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to students who...

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 trail	nature trail / pond / birdwatching area / tree labels	
describe positives	peaceful / calm / interesting / spot species	
describe negatives	hard to read / covered by plants / muddy path	
sound review-like	plenty to notice / slow down / However...	
recommend	outdoors / calmer break / clearer signs / firmer path	

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 / features		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

