



Transport and Travel

Review: reviewing a cycle-to-school route

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you write.

1. What would make cycling to school safer or easier?
2. Would you use a new cycle route? Why?
3. What problems can happen on routes shared by different people?

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 cycle-to-school route has recently opened near your school. Your teacher has asked you to write a review of the route for the school magazine.

Here are some comments about the cycle-to-school route to help you:

'The route avoids the busiest road.'

'Some corners feel unsafe.'

'The signs are easy to follow.'

'There are not enough bike racks.'

Now write a review of the cycle-to-school route 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 Smoother Ride, With a Few Sharp Corners

Would a better cycle route make more students leave the car at home? After trying the new cycle-to-school route, I think it could help.

The route starts near the park and follows quieter streets before reaching the back gate of the school. It has painted signs on the road, clear arrows and a short section away from traffic.

The best thing is that it avoids the busiest road, which makes the journey feel less stressful. The signs are also easy to follow, so new riders should not get lost on their first attempt.

However, some corners still feel unsafe because cars turn quickly and cyclists have limited space. There are not enough bike racks at school either, which could put students off using the route regularly.

Overall, I would recommend the route to confident cyclists who want a quieter journey to school. Safer corners and more bike racks would make it suitable for more students.

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 route and key 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 safety or parking 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 route is like	sequence + descriptive detail	You are explaining where the route goes.	starts near... / follows quieter streets
evaluation of comments	evaluative language + contrast	You are explaining strengths and balancing them with drawbacks.	best thing / However...
recommendation	recommendation + audience	You are saying who should use the route.	I would recommend... / confident cyclists...

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	Would a better cycle route...? / starts near... / follows quieter streets / painted signs / clear arrows
evaluate positives	best thing / easy to follow
balance negatives	However... / corners feel unsafe
recommend clearly	Overall, I would recommend... / to confident cyclists...

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 route	cycle route / quieter streets / back gate / painted signs	
describe positives	avoids traffic / less stressful / easy to follow	
describe negatives	unsafe corners / limited space / not enough bike racks	
sound review-like	smoother ride / first attempt / However...	
recommend	confident cyclists / quieter journey / safer corners	

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 / route		
positive points		
problems or limits		
recommendation		

