

Reviews are short descriptions of books, films, plays, TV programmes, etc. They are written to inform readers and viewers, and to give them your opinion/recommendation about whether (or not) they should read a book or see a film/play/etc.

A review should consist of:

- a) an **introduction** in which you summarise all the background information of the book/film/etc. (i.e. title, name of author/director, type, setting, etc);
  - b) a **main body** consisting of two paragraphs: one about the main points of the plot, presented in chronological order, and another including general comments on the plot, the main characters, the acting, the directing, etc.
    - **Note:** You should not reveal the end of the story to the reader.
  - c) a **conclusion** in which you recommend or do not recommend the book/film/play/etc, giving reasons to support your recommendation.
- Reviews are normally found in newspapers, magazines or as parts of a letter. The style you use depends on the publication and the intended reader and can be formal or semi-formal.
  - You normally use **present tenses** and a variety of adjectives to describe the plot and make your comments more clear and to the point.

## Introduction

### Paragraph 1

background information (title, name of author/director, type, setting, etc.)

## Main Body

### Paragraph 2

main points of the plot

### Paragraph 3

general comments

## Conclusion

### Paragraph 4

recommendation

## Examples

### The Hound of the Baskervilles

Introduction

The Hound of Baskervilles, by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, is an excellent story that takes place in London and Dartmoor. This fascinating book is about the famous detective, Sherlock Holmes, who with his trusted assistant, Watson, tries to solve the mysterious death of Sir Charles Baskerville.

Main Body

The mystery begins when Dr. Mortimer, Sir Charles' personal doctor, relates the circumstances surrounding his patient's death to Holmes and Watson. The doctor believes that his death has something to do with the legend of the hound, which is an enormous, evil, hunting dog that terrorises the people of Baskerville. Soon, it becomes clear that Sir Henry, who is Sir Charles' nephew, and the only surviving heir to the Baskerville fortune, is also in danger. Holmes and Watson have to move quickly in order to protect Sir Henry's life and to solve the mystery.

The book is full of thrilling moments as the author creates tension with unexpected twists and vivid descriptions. What gives the book its dark atmosphere, however, is the silent, evil presence of the legendary hound which dominates the story throughout.

Conclusion

I thoroughly recommend The Hound of the Baskervilles. Readers will have a difficult time putting this masterpiece down as they are kept in suspense until the very end of the book.

### ARMAGEDDON

Introduction

1 Armageddon is an action packed adventure about an enormous asteroid and the desperate efforts of mankind to stop it from destroying the world. Directed by Jerry Bruckheimer, the cast includes Bruce Willis as Harry Stamper, an oil rig owner, Liv Tyler as his daughter, Grace, and Ben Affleck as Stamper's employee, A.J., who is in love with Grace.

Main Body

2 The story begins when NASA discovers that the gigantic asteroid is only eighteen days away from destroying the Earth. NASA asks Harry to prevent the deadly asteroid from reaching our planet. Harry and his oil rig crew are given intensive training by NASA astronauts before they travel to space.

3 The film is filled with suspense as the men race against time to save the planet. The special effects and computer graphics are so spectacular that the audience will be amazed. The actors give a brilliant performance and the directing is superb. What is more, the soundtrack, mostly by Aerosmith, is fantastic.

Conclusion

4 I thoroughly recommend this film. If you like excitement, it will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat. Don't miss it!

