

COMMUNICATION

Talking about reviews

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_2054X

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can read excerpts of reviews and understand their gist.
- I can talk about reviews and give my opinion on them.



Warm-up

**How often do you
read album, film,
or book reviews?**

**Share your answer with the
rest of the class!**





Vocabulary

Match the word to its definition. These words will appear in the text on the next slide.

1 They released their **exhilarating** fifth album.

2 The song has a memorable **hook**.

3 The film is **gloomy**.

4 The film's execution is **clumsy**.

5 The plot is **vague**.

a a repeated part of a song that is easy to remember

b not clearly expressed, described or decided

c making you feel very excited and happy

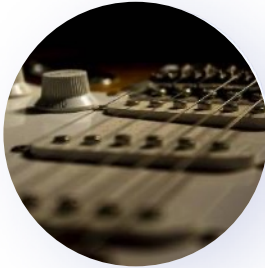
d not skilful, awkward

e showing a lack of hope



Reviews

Read the excerpts of two different reviews.



The Dirty Chimneys have just released their exhilarating fifth album, *Hot Tangerine*. The album is short yet daring and explores the idea of pandemic-era isolation. It's the trio's first album in seven years and it's full of sparkling hooks. This is a daring and brilliant album that will captivate listeners.

The Magic Umbrella is a dark and gloomy film that gains momentum as the mystery is pulled into focus. However, its execution is clumsy and ultimately, the plot is vague in a way that makes it difficult to connect with the story.



Which review is more positive? How do you know?



What kind of film do you think *The Magic Umbrella* is?



True or false

1. **Read** the statements below.
2. Then **decide** if they are *true* or *false*.

		true	false
1	The review for <i>Hot Tangerine</i> is a glowing review.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	The Dirty Chimneys is the name of a film.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	The review for <i>The Magic Umbrella</i> is positive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	The Dirty Chimneys released their last album seven years ago.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	The plot in <i>The Magic Umbrella</i> is vague, making it difficult to connect with the story.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



A **glowing review**.

A **glowing review** is very positive.

When was the last time you read a
glowing review?

Do you trust **glowing reviews**?



Categorise

In which kind of review would you most likely come across these words/phrases? More than one answer is possible.

1

breathy vocals

2

unpolished
sentences

3

beautiful
cinematography

4

delicious cuisine

5

slow service

6

profound and
elegant story

7

beautifully
directed

8

too salty

9

a slow-burn

10

original
songwriting

Film/TV series

Books

Albums

Restaurants



Complete the sentences

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.



A movie that I find **beautifully directed** is...

One of the most **original**
books/movies/albums I've come across is...

I found the *book/movie/album* _____
a **slow-burn** because...

When the **service is slow** at a restaurant,
I...

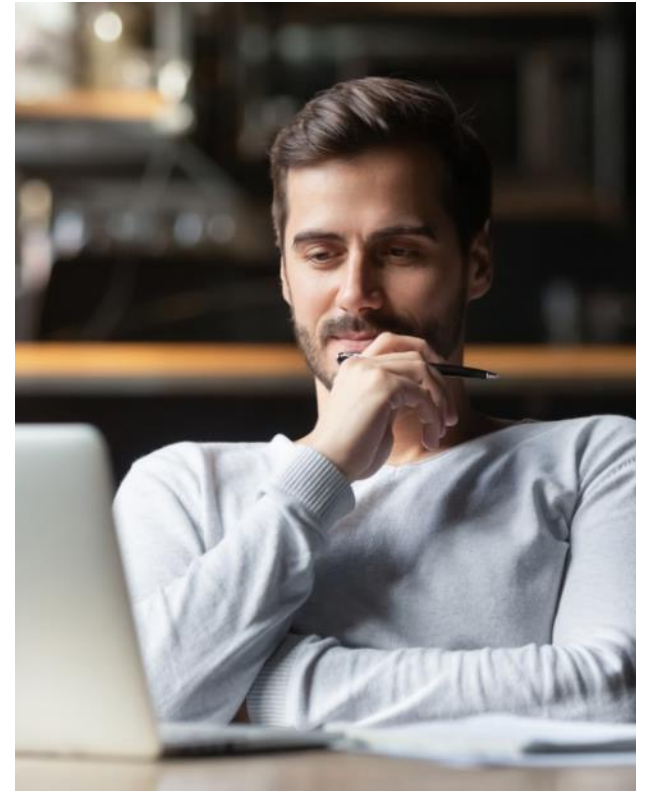


What's the difference?

Answer the question below.

Subjective or objective—what's the difference?

Discuss with your classmates and teacher.



Should reviews be subjective? Or should they be objective? Why?



Subjective vs. objective

1. **Read** the statements. 2. **Decide** if they are subjective or objective.

1 I don't like carrots.

2 The movie is long.

3 I think this song is terrible!

4 The band released two albums last year.

5 I don't like big books.

6 The book has many small chapters.

subjective

objective



Discuss

***Criticism is
inherently
subjective.***

**Do you agree or disagree with
this statement? Why?**





Discuss

In breakout rooms or together as a class, **answer** the questions in the yellow box.

**Have you ever disliked something
that was critically acclaimed?**

Why did you dislike it?





Discuss

Answer the questions below.

In your opinion, why do people read reviews?

Do you think reviews written nowadays are overly positive?



Do you read reviews of a product before you purchase it?



Do you read reviews before you decide to dine at a new restaurant?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

How can reviews help/hurt a product?



Have you ever written a review? Was it a positive or a negative review?



End of the lesson

Idiom

Preaching to the choir

Meaning: presenting an opinion to people who already agree with it

Example: I know how important this project is! You don't need to tell me—you're preaching to the choir.



Additional practice



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

Do you trust online reviews more than personal recommendations? Why or why not?



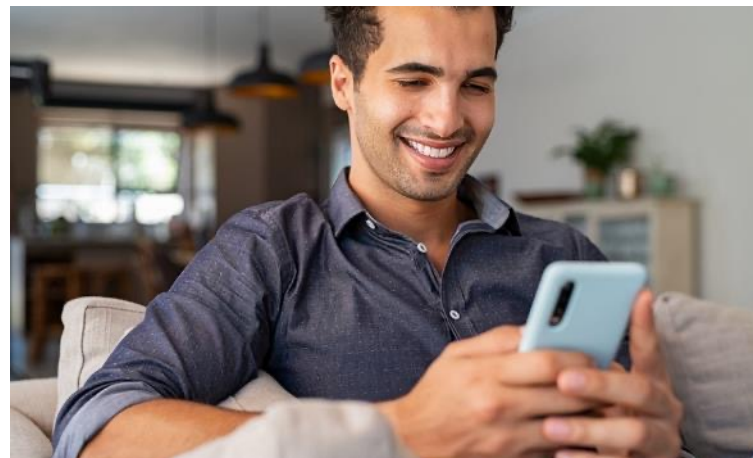
Do you think people rely too much on reviews?



Discuss

Answer the questions below.

How can you tell if a review is fake?



**How do things become a *cult classic*?
Can you name any examples?**

How often do you read reviews in English?



Answer key

P.4: 1.) c 2.) a 3.) e 4.) d 5.) b

P.6: 1.) True 2.) False 3.) False 4.) True 5.) True

P.8:

Film/TV series: 3, 6, 7, 9

Books: 2, 6, 9

Albums: 1, 9, 10

Restaurants: 4, 5, 8

P.10:

subjective: a personal opinion, assumption, or belief

objective: a statement that can be supported by facts or evidence

P.11:

subjective: 1, 3, 5

objective: 2, 4, 6



Summary

Talking about reviews

- *exhilarating; hook; gloomy; clumsy; vague; breathy; unpolished; profound; slow-burn*
- *The plot is **vague** in a way that makes it difficult to connect with the story.*
- *It's the trio's first album in seven years and it's full of sparkling **hooks**.*



Vocabulary

exhilarating

hook

gloomy

clumsy

vague

glowing review

breathy

unpolished

profound

slow-burn



Notes

