

# Writing Reviews



**1** What do you think a film/book review is?  
Where would you find a film/book review?

**2** Listen to the tape and answer these questions:  
a) What type of film is it? b) Who are the main characters? c) What is the plot of the film?  
d) Do the critics recommend it?

- A review is a short description of a film/book/performance, etc. which can be found in a newspaper or magazine.
- A review should have a) **an introduction** in which you give the background of the story (setting, type of story, e.g. *western, thriller, etc.*, main characters), b) **a main body** consisting of two paragraphs where you give the main points of the plot and general comments concerning the acting/directing/writing and c) **a conclusion** where the writer summarises the reasons why the film/book is recommended/not recommended.
- **Present Tenses** should be used when writing a review.

## Useful Language for Writing Reviews

**Background:** This well-written/informative/ fascinating book ..., The film/story is set in ..., This original first novel ..., The film/book tells the story of ..., This work is based on ..., etc.

**Main points of plot:** The plot focuses on ..., The story begins .... The plot has an unexpected twist ..., The film reaches a dramatic climax ..., etc.

**General comments:** It is rather long/ confusing/slow etc, The cast is excellent/weak ..., The script is dull/clever ..., It has a tragic/surprising end ..., It is beautifully written ..., etc.

**Recommendations:** Don't miss it, it will change the way you see ..., It is well worth seeing ..., I wouldn't recommend it because ..., etc.

**3** Read this film review and answer the questions: What type of film is being described? What characters are mentioned? What tenses are used? What recommendation does the critic make?

*Father of the Bride*, directed by Charles Sayer, is a modern remake of the 1950's film starring Spencer Tracy. This time the role of doting father is played by Steve Martin, and Diane Keaton plays his long-suffering wife.

The story begins with Martin's daughter announcing her imminent marriage. Reluctant to see

his beloved daughter leave the family nest, he feels more like he's losing a daughter than gaining a son-in-law.

As preparations for the big day get started, there follows a chain of comic events, helped along by the delightful Martin Short, superb as the wedding organiser for the occasion.

Steve Martin gives just as admirable a performance as Tracy did in the original film, and brings his own unique brand of humour to the part.

*Father of the Bride* is essentially a funny, enjoyable film, suitable for old and young alike. For those of you who like a good chuckle, it's well worth going to see.



## Introduction

### Paragraph 1

*background (setting, type of story, main characters)*

## Main Body

### Paragraph 2

*main points of the plot*

### Paragraph 3

*general comments*

## Conclusion

### Paragraph 4

*recommendation*

**4** Write a review in 120 - 180 words of a film/book you have recently seen/read.