

Reviews: Reading tasks

1 How swayed are you by reviews?

a Theatre reviews:

A favourite show / play of yours is in town and the tickets are expensive. Your friend went and loved it, but the reviews have been bad.

Do you go or not?

b Film reviews:

A film which stars an actor you really dislike has had some rave reviews.

Do you decide to go and see it or not?

c Book reviews:

You see a book by an author unknown to you. All the reviews on the back say that it's wonderful.

Do you decide to buy it or not?

d Restaurant reviews:

There's a new Italian restaurant opened near you, and you love Italian food. However, the reviewers have said that the food is disappointing.

Do you go or not?

You go to a restaurant recommended by some friends but thought the food was very overpriced. Now they want to go again, and want you to come with them this time.

Do you go with them or not?

You go to a new restaurant but you thought the food and service was poor. You then read a great review about the place.

Do you go again or not?

You go to a new restaurant and thought that the food and service was great. You have since read a review which says the place is terrible.

Do you go again or not?

2 What do you think the role of a reviewer is?

- To tell the truth whatever, that's what reviews are for.
- To be diplomatic and not say if something was really bad.
- To make something sound good, even if that is not the case.

One restaurant reviewer has said, "If restaurant staff do their job badly, there is no reason why I should do mine badly as well." Which role does he think he has?

