

COMMUNICATION

Reviewing a restaurant

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_2023X

LANGUAGE

ENGLISH



Learning outcomes

- I can write a restaurant review using a range of vocabulary.
- I can recognise and recall a variety of structures to emphasise a point in English.





Warm-up

Brainstorm **adjectives** to describe these elements of a restaurant.

1

Food

2

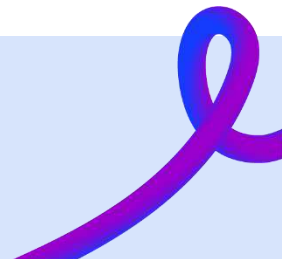
Service

3

Atmosphere

4

Price





What's your favourite restaurant?

1. **Prepare** two to three sentences about your favourite restaurant.
2. **Tell** a partner in breakout rooms or your whole class about your favourite restaurant.
3. For breakout rooms, briefly **present** your partner's choice when back in the classroom.

- What kind of food do they serve?
- What's your favourite dish to order?
- How good is the service?
- Is it expensive?



Reading

Read these three reviews for the Lotus Palm, a Mediterranean bistro in San Diego, CA.



Brian

Came for lunch. Fantastic staff and, overall, extremely good value for money. Ordered the special: the beef filet. It was so tasty!

Had such a disappointing meal here. Fish was undercooked and quite overpriced. Our server was also very rude to us.



Sheree



Tamisha

Not sure about the Lotus Palm. Some dishes are absolutely wonderful, others are just awful. Jury's out on this one!

Which review is positive?

Which review is negative?

Which review is mixed?

How can you tell?

Reading

Read the **bistro's reviews** again. For each review, **find examples** of the language listed in the boxes below.



Brian



Came for lunch. Fantastic staff and, overall, extremely good value for money. Ordered the special: the beef filet. It was so tasty!



Had such a disappointing meal here. Fish was undercooked and quite overpriced. Our server was also very rude to us.



Tamisha



Not sure about the Lotus Palm. Some dishes are absolutely wonderful, others are just awful. Jury's out on this one!



Sheree

Describing food

Describing service

Describing cost

Adverbs ending in
-ly

Using adverbs of degree

Look at the adverbs of degree highlighted in the sentences below.

The Lotus Palm is **extremely** good value for money.

Some of their dishes are **absolutely** wonderful.

- In which position in the sentence do these adverbs go?
- How do they change the meaning of each sentence?
- *(Hint: look at the word they modify)*

Deciding which adverb of degree to use depends on the adjective that follows it.

- Which adjective above has a meaning that is **already extreme** and **cannot** be made **weaker** or **stronger**?
- Do we use *absolutely* or *extremely* with this kind of adjective?

Making a point stronger

Use an adverb of degree (either *absolutely* or *extremely*) to make each point stronger.

1 Dining room – freezing



The dining room was absolutely freezing!

2 Fried chicken – crispy



3 Service – terrible



4 Duck – tasty



5 Portions of food – tiny



6 Café – noisy



Comparing *so* and *such*

Look at these sentences from the text about the Lotus Palm. Complete the blue boxes.

Ordered the lunch special: the beef filet. It was **so** tasty!

Had **such** a disappointing evening meal at the Lotus Palm.

- Listen to your teacher pronounce these sentences.
- Which word do they stress?
- What effect do these words have on the sentence?

- What kind of word is *tasty*?
- What kind of word is *evening meal*?
- We use _____ + adjective or adverb.
- We use _____ + *a* + noun phrase.

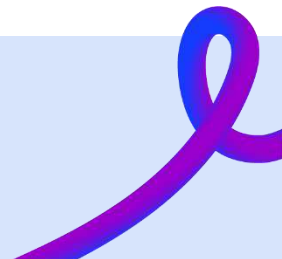


We had a **super** disappointing meal there!

The salad was **super** tasty!

Native speakers often use these words in informal speech.

What could you replace **super** with in each of the examples above?



Using *so* and *such*

Complete the gaps with the correct word. Which opinions are positive and which are negative?

- 1 I was _____ unhappy with my food there. They need to get a new chef ASAP!
- 2 It's _____ a nice place to just grab a coffee and watch the world go by!
- 3 My husband was _____ disappointed with his salad. It was only lettuce and tomato!
- 4 This restaurant serves the best noodles in town. _____ a good discovery!
- 5 They brought the food to our table _____ quickly. What fantastic service!



What do these customers think?

Here are some more customer ratings for the Lotus Palm. **Choose one** of them and **write a short review** as if you are the customer.

Jane

Food	★★★☆☆
Service	★☆☆☆☆
Price	★★★★☆

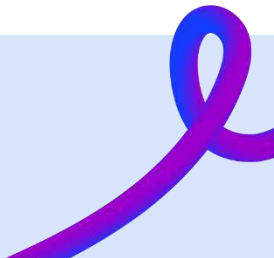
Paul

Food	★★★★★
Service	★★★★☆
Price	★★★★★

Helena

Food	★☆☆☆☆
Service	★★☆☆☆
Price	★☆☆☆☆

Now, **compare your reviews** as a class. Would you like to try the Lotus Palm? Why or why not?



Look back at your first writing task

Return to the sentences you wrote about your favourite restaurant on slide 4. Can you **improve them** using vocabulary from today's lesson?

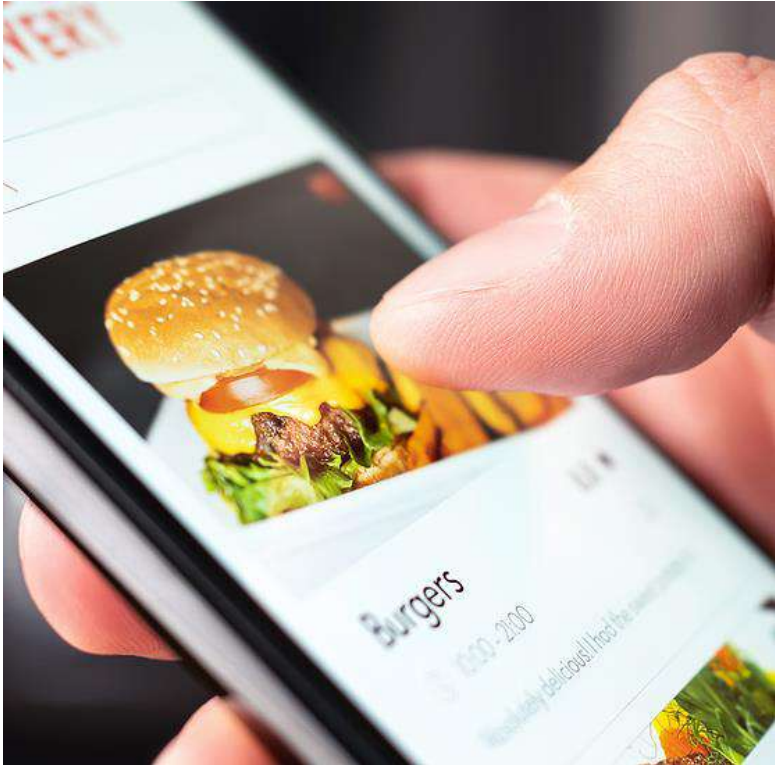
- staff
- dish
- meal
- absolutely
- extremely
- so
- such a
- wonderful
- fantastic
- good value for money



A large white rectangular area with a blue corner tab at the top left, containing ten horizontal lines for writing.

Time to talk!

Ask your classmates the questions below. What can you find out about them?



- What are your favourite cuisines? Do you have any favourite dishes?
- What would your ideal restaurant be like?
- How often do you check a restaurant's reviews before you go there?
- What happens if you see a negative review?
- Do you ever download a restaurant's menu and decide what to eat before you go?
- How often do you leave reviews for restaurants?

End of the lesson

Idiom

Nothing to write home about!

Meaning: to be very mediocre – not exciting or special.

Example: Went to that new Indian takeout on our street. The food was ok, but nothing to write home about.



Additional practice



The worst-rated restaurant near you

Perhaps you've had a horrible experience there, or heard about an extremely bad experience from a friend. **Let's find out** using the power of the internet!

- 1 Open a **new tab** in your internet browser.
- 2 **Type** in your search engine:
"Worst reviewed restaurant + *your town or city*"

- 3 Take **two minutes** to **find an online review**.
Summarise the review and **tell your class** about it!





Extremely or absolutely?

Complete the sentences with the appropriate **adverb**.

1 The food was _____ good! I would definitely come back.

a. **extremely**

b. **absolutely**

2 I love that restaurant! The chef there is _____ brilliant at what she does.

a. **extremely**

b. **absolutely**

3 Be careful in the kitchen! Those sharp knives are _____ dangerous.

a. **extremely**

b. **absolutely**



Recommending a restaurant

Your friend Lucas is **visiting your town or city** and asks for a restaurant recommendation.

Which place would you recommend?

Reply to Lucas' texts with your thoughts!





Rework the sentences

Add **so** and **such** to these sentences. More than one option might be possible.

1 The story was amazing.



It was such an amazing story!

2 The experience was really unforgettable.



3 The meal was very tasty.



4 The staff was really kind.



5 It's very hot today! It's over 35C!



6 He walks really slowly. It is very annoying!



Answer key

- P.5:** Positive: Brian's
Negative: Sheree's
Mixed: Tamisha's
- P.6:** Food: tasty, disappointing, undercooked, wonderful, awful
Service: rude, fantastic
Cost: good value for money, overpriced
Adverbs: extremely, absolutely
- P.7:** Before the adjective they modify; They intensify the adjective (i.e. make the opinion stronger).
Wonderful is already extreme; With this adjective we use *absolutely*, not *extremely*.
- P.8:** ***Suggested answers:***
The fried chicken was extremely crispy.
The service was absolutely terrible.
The duck was extremely tasty.
The portions of food were absolutely tiny.
The café was extremely noisy.



Answer key

P.9: Effect: they also intensify the opinion in the sentence.

So + adjective or adverb

Such + *a* + noun phrase

P.10: 1. so 2. such 3. so 4. such 5. so

P.19: 1. a 2. b 3. a



Summary

- When we review a restaurant, we usually give our opinion on various elements:
 - The **quality** of the **food** it serves; the level of **service** it offers; the **atmosphere** created, and, of course, how happy we are with the **price** of everything.
- When giving our opinion, we can make our point stronger by using:
 - Adverbs of degree: *absolutely* and *extremely*;
 - *So* or *such a*
- When deciding between *absolutely* and *extremely*, we need to look at the adjective that follows it:
 - With 'extreme' adjectives (e.g. *brilliant, freezing, boiling, terrible*) we use *absolutely*.
 - With most other adjectives (e.g. *tasty, good, fast*) we can use *extremely*.
- When we use *so* or *such a*, we also need to look at the kind of word we are modifying:
 - We use *so* with adjectives or adverbs (e.g. *The service was **so** fast; They made the food **so** quickly*)
 - We use *such a*.. with noun phrases (e.g. *We had **such a** terrible meal there!*)



Vocabulary

tasty

undercooked

wonderful

fantastic

overpriced

rude

awful

disappointing

good value for money

to order the special

staff

meal

server

dish

