

# How to Write a Movie Review

For the B2 FCE Cambridge exam

A movie review is an **informal piece of writing** that describes and evaluates a movie. Movie reviews are usually written by experts giving their opinion about the movie and published in newspapers, magazines, or blogs.

## Parts of a movie review

### 1. Title

This should include the movie title and an **eye-catching heading**

### 2. Introduction

This paragraph should include the **name of the movie**, the **genre**, the **director**, the **stars** and any **prizes** they have won. You can also include information about the **place** and the **time** the movie is **set** and filmed. The purpose of this paragraph is that you engage the reader and give them a general idea of the type of movie you are going to review.

### 3. Summary

This part should include an outline of the main events along with general information about the characters and the plot. Your summary **should NOT spoil the film**. Therefore, you should not mention anything about the ending of the movie.

### 4. Analysis

In this section you should **share your opinion about the movie**. Your review should examine the plot, the actors, the special effects and the soundtrack. You can also compare the movie you are reviewing to a similar film in the same genre. In this section you can also give examples of the good elements and the bad elements in the movie.

### 5. Conclusion

In this part you should **summarize your thoughts on the good and bad elements of the movie**. Finally, you should evaluate the movie (give stars \_\_\_\_\_, thumbs up \_\_\_\_\_ or thumbs down \_\_\_\_\_) and make a recommendation. You should mention why you recommend/ don't recommend the movie.

Now that you know which parts should be included in a movie review \_\_\_\_\_, let's see an example:

**Title with an eye-catching headline**

**"Little Boy" - A story of faith, hope and love.**

**Introduction**

"Little Boy" is a *heartwarming drama movie* that takes place in a small American town during World War II. The movie follows an 8-year-old boy named Pepper, who is determined to bring his father home from the war. It is the masterpiece of the Mexican *director* Alejandro Monteverde.

**Summary**

The film explores themes of faith, hope, and love and shows how small acts of kindness can make a big difference. The setting and cinematography capture the beauty and simplicity of life during wartime America. The *cast* delivers *stellar performances*, with standout performances from Jakob Salvati, Emily Watson, and Michael Rapaport.

**Analysis**

The film's story is compelling and engaging, with a focus on the power of faith and belief. The movie showcases the power of faith in bringing hope and healing to those who need it most. The film's *special effects* are visually stunning, and the scene where "Little Boy" tries to move a mountain with the power of his faith is particularly memorable.

**Conclusion**

Overall, "Little Boy" is a *must-watch movie* that will leave you feeling inspired and uplifted. It's a great family movie that can be enjoyed by people of all ages and is a powerful reminder of the importance of hope, faith, and love in the face of adversity. This movie gets a *thumbs up* and is highly recommended. I would give it *five stars*.

Check the movie trailer out to learn more about "Little Boy"

# Useful language to describe movies

## Movie genre

- an action movie
- an animated movie
- a drama
- a historical movie
- a horror movie
- a musical
- a romantic comedy
- a science fiction movie
- a thriller
- a war movie
- a western

## People and things in movies

- audience
- cast
- cinematography
- extra
- plot
- review
- scene
- script
- sequel
- soundtrack
- special effects
- star
- subtitles

## Adjectives to describe movies

Positive	Negative	Neutral
funny hilarious exciting interesting moving first-rater original imaginative legendary inspiring insightful thought-provoking flawless first-rate suspenseful riveting intriguing heart-warming stellar standout stunning must-watch	tragic violent too boring too scary uninteresting too slow too long weak flawed second-rate third-rate silly disappointing bloody predictable confusing ordinary disgusting	suspenseful low-budget big-budget dramatic highly-charged sentimental romantic fantasy slow romantic satirical fast-moving oddball picaresque wacky

## Verbs and phrases

- It was directed by ...
- It was written by...
- It was dubbed into [language]
- The movie explores themes of ...
- The movie shows...
- [Actor] played the part/role of [character]
- It is set in...
- It is based on the book...
- It was shot on location in [city]
- It's about...
- One of the main storylines is...
- It stars...
- In the end...
- My favourite scene is...
- I strongly recommend the movie because...

## Pro tips for writing a movie review

- Remember to write the movie's title.
- Write an eye-catching heading.
- Remember to mention the genre of the movie.
- Don't forget the audience. Who is the movie for?
- Don't forget to include the names of the characters, the year the movie was made and if the movie or the actors have won any awards (For example, an Oscar, a Golden Globe, an MTV Movie Award, etc).
- Never ever mention the ending!!! You don't want to spoil the movie.
- Remember to share your personal opinion and your evaluation.