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# Nelson English Usage

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*Digital resources for the Australian Curriculum*

## *Everyone's a critic*

1 Think of a negative experience that you have had of a particular product, place, service or event. You might have had terrible food at a restaurant, watched a forgettable TV show, read a dreadful book or had questionable customer service.

As an example, for a restaurant, questions you might consider are:

- How did the food taste?
- Did the food match its description in the menu?
- How long did you wait for your food?
- Was the price of your food fair?
- Were the portions suited to the price?
- Was the food properly cooked?
- Did you get sick afterwards?
- Were the wait staff polite or impolite, patient or impatient, friendly or rude?
- How quickly were you seated?
- Were you offered drinks, and how quickly?
- Was anything missing from your table, such as cutlery?
- How long did it take to get wait staff's attention?
- Did you feel ignored?
- Did you feel harassed?

**2** Describe the negative experience in detail – what made it negative? Where was it? Who was involved? Was it such a bad experience that you have avoided it since?

**3** Write a critical review of the negative experience, in 300 words or less. You must treat it as if it were a real review for a magazine or newspaper, so you must be truthful and non-defamatory, and justify your conclusions.

**4** Now, think of a positive experience you have had, along the same lines.

**5** Describe the positive experience in detail – what made it positive? Where was it? Who was involved? Was it such a great experience that you would try it again?

**8** Write a critical review of the positive experience, in 300 words or less. You must treat it as if it were a real review for a magazine or newspaper, so you must be truthful and non-defamatory. Although you are documenting a positive experience, you should still stick to the facts, rather than be complimentary in a vague way. You must justify your conclusions.

7 Which review did you find more difficult to write?

8 Did you find it easy to remember specific details, or did you have to approximate the truth?

**Teacher's comments**