

6 A RESTAURANT REVIEW

- a Read the two reviews of the same restaurant. What do they agree about? What do they disagree about?

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Bistro Giacomo

Cuisine: Italian
Location: Covent Garden, Central London

Reviews

Rafael,
Barcelona

Value
★★★★★

Atmosphere
★★★★☆

Service
★★★★★

Food
★★★★☆

Great place for a pre-theatre dinner

My girlfriend and I had a lovely dinner here before going to the theatre.

The service was excellent. Although we hadn't booked a table and the restaurant was quite busy, we didn't have to wait long for a table. The atmosphere was **lively**, with great music and people chatting.

Our dinner was perfect for a summer evening. For our starter, we had a **delicious** brochette of cheese, mushrooms, herbs, and vegetables. For our main, we had tuna fusilli, then dessert and coffee. The bill was really very **reasonable** – quite a bit less than in other similar places – and we were able to get to the theatre in time for the performance.

Zoe,
Oxford

Value
★★★☆☆

Atmosphere
★★★☆☆

Service
★★★★☆

Food
★★★★☆

Good food, shame about the music

Pros: The service was friendly and helpful, and the food was very **fresh** and **tasty**. The house wine was also very good.

Cons: The music was too loud so it was difficult for my friend and me to have a conversation. We asked our waitress to turn it down a little, but she said she couldn't. Also, there are a lot of tables for the size of the restaurant, so we felt a bit **cramped**. On top of that, it was a bit **pricey** – the bill was much higher than we'd expected.

Overall opinion: Did we enjoy it? Yes. Would we go again? Not sure. There are plenty of other restaurants in the area with a better atmosphere, good food, and quiet music.

- b Read the reviews again. Which person...?
- 1 organizes their review into good points and then bad points
 - 2 gives more details about what they had to eat
 - 3 says it was good value for money
 - 4 summarizes their opinion
 - 5 do you think gives the most useful information
 - 6 will probably go to the restaurant again

- c Look at the **highlighted** words in the text and work out their meanings. Then put the words in the right place in the **Useful language** box.

🔍 Useful language: describing restaurants		
	positive 😊	negative ☹️
the service	friendly helpful efficient	rude slow unfriendly dreadful
the room and the atmosphere	1 <u>lively</u> cosy romantic	2 _____ noisy cold
the food	3 _____ 4 _____ 5 _____	overcooked small portions nothing special
the prices	good value for money 6 _____	expensive 7 _____

- d You're going to write a review of a café, bar, or restaurant you've been to recently for a website. **Plan** your review.
- Either** follow the style of the first review and give the following information:
- 1 Say which place you went to, and who with.
 - 2 Say why you decided to go there.
 - 3 Describe the food.
 - 4 Describe the service and atmosphere.
 - 5 Say what you think about the prices.
 - 6 Say whether you would go back or not, and if not, why?
- Or** follow the style of the second review and use these headings:
- Pros
Cons
Overall Opinion
- Use the **Useful language** and **Vocabulary Bank At a restaurant p.161** to help you.

- e **Write** your review.
- f **Check** your review for mistakes (grammar, vocabulary, punctuation, and spelling).

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