

Get ideas



- 1 Have you seen any of the films in the photos?
- 2 Do you like reading reviews of films, books or CDs? Why/Why not?

Plan ahead

- 3 Read this announcement. Which science fiction film would you write about?

Do you like science fiction films? If so, we would like to hear from you.

Could you write a review of a science fiction film you have seen? In your review, tell us about the film, say what you thought was good and bad about it and whether or not you would recommend it to other people.

- 4 What do you want to know when you read a review of a film or book? Choose from the list.

- a detailed description of the story
- a summary of the plot
- details of the ending
- information about who produced or published it
- what you liked and didn't like
- reasons for your views
- a recommendation about whether to see the film or read the book

- 5 Read this review of a science fiction film. Is everything you chose in Exercise 4 included?

FILM REVIEW

RATING *****

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace

A lot is expected of any *Star Wars* film, and especially *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace*. In this film we are introduced to Anakin Skywalker, a Jedi apprentice. In later films he becomes a hero of the Clone Wars, and he is drawn more and more towards the dark side of the Force. Finally, we see him transform into Darth Vader.

The effects in *The Phantom Menace* are brilliant, with a great space battle at the beginning and several light-sabre fights, which are done very convincingly. These effects mean the audience is taken into the *Star Wars* world. The music also adds to the atmosphere of the film.

However, the acting is not always good. Ewan MacGregor is better than in some of the other films and the actor who plays Palpatine, Ian McDiarmid, gives a good performance, but most of the other actors are just average. Sometimes the plot of the film is very slow, but generally it's a good addition to the *Star Wars* series.

Some fans will be disappointed, but I thought it was a very entertaining film, so I would recommend it. Also, it may inspire you to watch the other films in the series again.

- 6 How many paragraphs are there in the review? What kind of information does each paragraph give the reader?

EXAMZONE

Want some tips for writing a review?

- Make sure you deal with **all the points** in the question.
- Remember to give your **opinion**. Don't just describe what you did or saw.
- Give your review **a title** so the reader knows what it is about.

Language to use

- 7 Mark the punctuation in this extract from a review of *The Matrix*.

FILM REVIEW

RATING *****



in *The Matrix* we are taken into a future where robots are in control of the planet they keep humans connected to a virtual reality matrix while they use their energy to keep the machines going. Neo who is the hero is supposed to destroy the matrix and save the planet and humans the film has fantastic action sequences and amazing photography the special effects are so good that you can actually believe this world exists as well as looking good it has an interesting plot so it's a good film all round

- 8 Write a suitable positive adjective for each film feature. Avoid using *good/nice*.

- 1 directing
- 2 plot
- 3 acting
- 4 photography
- 5 costumes
- 6 special effects

- 9 Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of these verbs.

- act feature introduce make produce show
- 1 Several new special effects into the last *Pirates of the Caribbean* film.
 - 2 The Aston Martin in almost all the Bond movies so far.
 - 3 The documentary on the science museum next Wednesday.
 - 4 The mad scientist in the film by Johnny Depp.
 - 5 We designed the new electronic drum kit in the UK, but it in Korea.
 - 6 No more computers unless we get more money.

Time to write a review

- 10 Read this announcement. Decide which film you want to write about and discuss why you liked it.

We are looking for reviews of films with amazing special effects. Can you write a review telling us about a film you have seen which has good special effects? In your review, say what the film is, explain why the special effects were good and recommend other people to see the film.

- 11 Write a plan and decide how many paragraphs your review will have and what you will include in each one.

- 12 Write your review in 120–180 words.

SKILLZONE

Need more help with reviews?

- Make sure you say **which film** you saw and include a **clear recommendation**.
- Check your **spelling** and **punctuation**.
- Use **adjectives** to make your review interesting.
- Give **examples** of what you enjoyed or didn't enjoy.

Time to watch *Incredible Creations*

- 13 Watch the DVD and do the activities on page 150.

