

## A restaurant review

Learn how to write a restaurant review.

### Before reading

Do the preparation task first. Then read the text and tips and do the exercises.

### Preparation task

Which words would you see in a restaurant review? Choose the six correct answers.

\_\_\_\_\_ mains

\_\_\_\_\_ side order

\_\_\_\_\_ receptionist

\_\_\_\_\_ service

\_\_\_\_\_ tip

\_\_\_\_\_ check out

\_\_\_\_\_ reservation

\_\_\_\_\_ order

## Vega, New York

Reviewed yesterday

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆

### Great mains, pity about the chips

Came for lunch with my sister. We loved our Thai-style mains which were amazing with lots of flavour, very impressive for a vegetarian restaurant.

But the service was below average, and the chips were too terrible to finish.

When we arrived at 1.40, we had to wait 20 minutes while they got our table ready. OK, so we didn't have a reservation, but the restaurant was only half full. There was no reason to make us wait at all.

We ordered the chips as a side dish and they looked delicious. But, when we tasted them, they were overcooked and swimming in oil so we left most of them. We expected a lot more for \$10!

When the waiter asked if everything was OK, we said we really didn't like the chips and he said 'That's funny, I love them' and that was it. He didn't offer us anything else or take them off our bill. Also, when we didn't leave a tip, he looked annoyed.

I was really excited about visiting Vega, and the mains were just fantastic, but the rest of the experience was really disappointing.

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## Tips

1. Use an informal or semi-formal style.
2. In the title, give the main idea or opinion.
3. Write about the important parts of the experience, not every detail.
4. Organise your ideas into paragraphs.
5. Write about the good and the bad.

## Tasks

### Task 1

Choose the correct answer.

1. The review overall is ...
  - a. very positive.
  - b. partly positive, partly negative.
  - c. very negative.
2. When they arrived at the restaurant, the problem was ...
  - a. they had to wait.
  - b. they didn't have a reservation.
  - c. the restaurant was already full.
3. The best thing was ...
  - a. the service.
  - b. the side dish.
  - c. the mains.
4. The chips were ...
  - a. delicious.
  - b. overcooked and oily.
  - c. more than \$10.
5. They didn't leave a tip because the waiter was ...
  - a. annoying.
  - b. slow.
  - c. unhelpful.

### Task 2

Put the words in the correct group.

amazing	overcooked	below average	fantastic
impressive	disappointing	terrible	delicious

Positive	Negative

**Task 3**

Complete the review.

arrived	service	menu	try
bill	delicious	ordered	dishes

**Sandy's café: a good option for a quick lunch**

My colleague and I decided to try out this café near our office.

The staff gave us a warm welcome. We asked about the ingredients of the (1)..... , because my colleague can't have anything with nuts in, and they were helpful.

He (2)..... a vegetable curry and I went for a toasted sandwich. Unfortunately, that was off the (3)..... , so I had a four-cheese pizza instead. The food

(4)..... fast! The pizza was (5)..... .My colleague liked his curry too

but it was quite spicy for him. The (6)..... for both of us came to £20 including the

(7)..... charge, which we thought was reasonable. I'll be back to

(8)..... that toasted sandwich some time.

**Discussion**

Have you ever had a bad meal in a restaurant?

## Answers

**Preparation task**

- 1 mains  
2 side order  
         receptionist  
3 service  
4 tip  
         check out  
5 reservation  
6 order

**Task 1**

1. b
2. a
3. c
4. b
5. c

**Task 2**

Positive	Negative
amazing, delicious, fantastic, impressive	below average, disappointing, overcooked, terrible

**Task 3**

1. dishes
2. ordered
3. menu
4. arrived
5. delicious
6. bill
7. service
8. try