# CPE Review

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| **Register: Informal/neutral**  Use: all your colourful vocabulary:  **Phrasal verbs/idioms/impressive collocations.** | **Forms and conventions:**  **Title:** for films/books/restaurants use the name/title or if think up an imaginative title using an idiom/expression. |
| **Planning, 6 step system:**   1. Read task, underline content points. 2. Divide content points into paragraphs: Intro, décor, ambiance, service, food, recommendation. 3. WHAT do you want to say? Add your notes to each paragraph in simple form. 4. HOW are you going to say that? Brainstorm advanced grammar and vocabulary for each note. 5. Forms and conventions: Title paragraph titles, fixed introduction. 6. Write! Remember **word limit is: 280-320** | **Introduction:**  Personal anecdote to grab attention. Introduce name of book/film, restaurant + location, course, TV show etc.  **Seldom do I** find the time to…, however when I do take time out of my hectic schedule, I like nothing more than…  **Being a** bit of a **film buff/book worm/foody**, the news that … had opened a new restaurant/released a new film/book had me **itching to try/see/read it**. So last week I **popped down** with a friend **to check it out.**  **Having never seen/read/tried…** before I approached … with a sense of trepidation, not knowing what to expect. Soon however, all my fears were allayed. |
| **Book reviews:**  **Vocab to describe the book in general:**  a page-turner / a white-knuckle ride / a tearjerker / a laugh a minute / I couldn't put it down.  **Vocab to describe specific parts:**  a slow start / a gentle introduction /gripping climax / nail-biting conclusion / cliff-hanger ending/ a shocking twist in the tail  **Setting:**  The book is set in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_(place/time)  The action takes place in \_\_\_\_\_\_ (place/time)  the present day (now)  an alternate reality where vampires / wizards walk the earth  a sleepy village in the USA  the bustling city of New York  **Plot:**  The plot centres around / focuses on (the adventures / lives of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_)  The plot follows the adventures of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(character name)  **Characters:**  Villain / hero / heroine / anti-hero / main character / protagonist  The characters are believable / well-crafted / a bit 2 dimensional. | **Film/TV reviews:**  **General:**  An all-star cast  heavily influenced by the films of..  glowing reviews  startling originality  suspense builds up  a polished performance  a bold experiment  an accomplished actor  an unmitigated disaster (bad film)  a dazzling display of his/her talents  made a lasting impression on me.  Brought a tear to my eye  Like watching paint dry (boring)  I was on the edge of my seat (exciting)  A blockbuster (big commercial film eg Superman)  … sets off an amazing chain of events  Gripping film (exciting)  The director/author evoked a magical atmosphere  … awakened my interest in…  Hold my attention  Capture the audience’s imagination.  Spectacular set-pieces (main action scenes)  … is cast in the role of…  … is miscast in the role of…  …gives a(n) (un)convincing performance as…  The film is let down by a clichéd script. |
| **Restaurant review:**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | Hearty meal  Wholesome food  Piping-hot  Succulent/juicy (meat)  Creamy  With a kick (spicy)  Crunchy/crispy  Well-seasoned  Packed with flavour  A steaming plate of..  Hungry/starving/ravenous/famished  Bustling eatery(restaurant)  Lively atmosphere  Service with a smile | A plate piled high with..  Mouth-watering  To die for  Heavenly  To lick your lips in anticipation  Roast  Pan-fried  Grilled  Steamed  Freshly-baked | | **Restaurants cont.**  Make a pig of one’s self  To feast/gorge on (eat a lot of)  To eat/drink to your heart’s content  Devour/gobble up  Savour  Nibble  Bite  Lick  Aromas wafting from the kitchen  Cheap – economical/reasonably-priced  Expensive – pricey/costs an arm and a leg  €20 a head (per person) |
| **Killer Lines:**  Were I to sum up … in one word, it would be…  … left a lot to be desired (wasn’t good enough)  …more than lives up to the hype (is as good as everyone says it is)  … is by far and away the best … you’re likely to … this year  … really raises the bar (sets a higher standard)  … sets the benchmark for other (others will be judges against how good it is)  … ticks all the right boxes  … holds up well in comparison with …  …comes off badly in comparison with … | **Grammar check list**  Have you included?   * An inversion (not only/no sooner/seldom) * An inverted conditional (Were we to…) * A participle clause (Being…/Having gone…) * A double comparative (The more we… the more) * A cleft sentence (What is most crucial is…) * Idioms * Phrasal verbs |