

UPPER INTERMEDIATE UNIT 10

a review

speakout WRITING TIP

When you write a film review, you need to help people to decide if they might want to see the film. You should provide the names of the main actors and the director, and you should also describe in general terms what the film is about and where it takes place. However, don't describe the plot in detail as this can spoil the film for someone who decides to see it. Finally and most important of all, give your opinion of the film.

1 Answer the questions.

- 1 How often do you watch films?
- 2 Where do you watch them?
- 3 What is the best film you have seen recently?

2 Read the film review. Are the statements below true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 The review provides the names of the main actors and the director.
- 2 The film describes in general terms what the film is about.
- 3 The review gives too many details of the plot and describes how the film ends.
- 4 The review says where the film takes place.
- 5 The reviewer isn't sure what he or she thinks of the film.

Sherlock Holmes ★★★★★

Films

Sherlock Holmes, which stars Robert Downey Jr. as Holmes and Jude Law as his sidekick Watson, gives us a completely fresh view of the famous detective.

As the film opens, Holmes and Watson are trying to solve a series of mysterious murders that eventually lead them to Lord Blackwood, who is convicted and sentenced to hang. However, Blackwood claims to have magic powers and predicts that he will rise from the dead to take over the country and then the world. If you want to find out more about the plot, you'll need to see the film!

Skilfully handled by the director Guy Ritchie, the film slowly builds to a gripping climax as it shows the tensions between the two friends, who live and work together. The script is extremely well constructed and the action scenes, with Ritchie's trademark slow motion fights, are thrilling.

Jude Law as Watson puts in one of the best performances of his career, giving the character a depth and warmth which we've never seen before.

To sum up, *Sherlock Holmes* is a fast-paced, all-action adventure which keeps the viewer on the edge of his or her seat. Highly recommended!

3 Find two examples of an adverb + past participle combination in the third paragraph.

alternately emotionally skilfully
convincingly widely

4 Use the words in the box to complete the sentences.

- 1 The film was _____ praised by critics.
- 2 Lord Blackwood is _____ played by the always-excellent Mark Strong.
- 3 The relationship between Holmes and Irene Adler is _____ charged.
- 4 The script is _____ gripping, funny and poignant.
- 5 _____ directed by Guy Ritchie, it's well worth watching.

5 Match the sentence beginnings (1–4) with the endings (a–d) to make recommendations.

- 1 One reason I'd recommend it ...
 - 2 The best thing about ...
 - 3 I suggest that ...
 - 4 It's a good idea ...
- a) ... you don't take the kids to see the film.
 - b) ... is because of the excellent acting.
 - c) ... to take a box of tissues with you.
 - d) ... the film is the camerawork.

6 Choose a film that you have seen recently and write a review of it (120–180 words).

Plan your writing

- Think about the film you're going to review. What's it called and who is in it? Provide a brief outline of the plot and give your opinion of the different aspects of the film.
- Conclude by saying whether or not you would recommend it.

Check your writing

- In general, does your review give the reader a good general idea of the film and your opinion of it?
- Have you checked your grammar and spelling?
- Did you find any mistakes?