

UPDATED FOR THE REVISED 2015
CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH: FIRST (FCE)

listening
speaking
writing

NEW

plus

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CAMBRIDGE
ENGLISH: FIRST (B2)


mm publications

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Food and drink

LISTENING

Pre-listening

- What are some of your favourite kinds of food?
- Do you like eating out? Why/Why not?
- What are the features that characterise a good restaurant?



VOCABULARY

vegetarian
 meat lover
 health food fanatic
 nice atmosphere
 fresh ingredients
 home-cooked meals
 can't afford
 quality
 service
 atmosphere



Activity 1

You will hear people talking in eight different situations. For questions 1-8, choose the best answer (A, B or C).

- 1 You overhear a conversation. What is the recipe for?
 - A pancakes
 - B a type of sauce
 - C a special kind of juice
- 2 You hear a woman talking. When did she become interested in the promotional product?
 - A when she saw the wide variety available
 - B when she was offered a discount
 - C when she heard that they contain natural ingredients only
- 3 You hear a man talking on the phone. What is his profession?
 - A He is a chef.
 - B He is a waiter.
 - C He is a restaurant owner.

1

2

3



4 You hear an advertisement on the radio. What is being advertised?

- A a food substitute
- B vitamin tablets
- C a milkshake

4

5 You hear a woman talking on the radio. Why did she become a vegetarian?

- A to support animal rights
- B because her friend was a vegetarian
- C for health reasons

5

6 You hear a conversation between a doctor and a patient. What is the patient's reaction?

- A She is sceptical.
- B She is alarmed.
- C She is confused.

6

7 You hear two colleagues talking. What is the man doing?

- A cancelling the meeting
- B changing an arrangement
- C thanking for a favour

7

8 You hear a woman talking on the phone. Who is bringing the soft drinks?

- A Angela
- B Dave
- C Kelly

8



Activity 2

You will hear a restaurant critic talking on a radio programme. For questions 1-10, complete the sentences with a word or short phrase.

The 'Avoid at All Costs' award is given to [redacted] 1 once a month.

Gareth and his friend [redacted] 2 early so they had to wait for a short while.

Gareth was shown to his table by the [redacted] 3.

According to Gareth, it was dark in order to [redacted] 4 of the food.

Gareth had difficulty [redacted] 5 his steak.

According to Gareth, frozen fish is [redacted] 6 compared to fresh.

Gareth thinks the state of [redacted] 7 shows the standard of a restaurant.

Gareth was surprised at the lack of [redacted] 8.

Gareth and his friend refused to take [redacted] 9.

Gareth thought the quality of the food [redacted] 10 the amount of the bill.

SPEAKING

Discuss the topic

- Where do you like to eat when you go out with your friends/family? Why?
- Do you eat healthily? Why/Why not?

Focus on pictures A and B

The two pictures show people eating and buying food at different places. Find the similarities and differences using the ideas given below, your own ideas and the vocabulary on the next page. Make notes in the space provided.

Similarities

Differences

What do you find attractive or unattractive about each place?

- ideas!*
- occasion*
 - surroundings*
 - service*
 - type of food*
 - popularity*
 - cost*



Now speak

1. Compare these pictures and say what you find attractive or unattractive about each place. Use the notes you have made, some of the expressions suggested below and the vocabulary on the next page.

The place in picture ... is ... than the place in picture ... because ... Eating food at a ... is ... because ...

I find the place in picture ... because ... As regards to the service / the type of food offered ...

A canteen is not as ... as a restaurant. I would rather eat at a ... because ... In both places people can ...

2. Now say where you would rather eat and why, using expressions like those given below.

I prefer eating ... because ... I don't like ... so ... I enjoy eating at ... because ...

Focus on pictures C and D

The two pictures show people eating different meals. Find the similarities and differences using the ideas given below, your own ideas and the vocabulary on this page. Make notes in the space provided.

Similarities

Differences

How nutritious is each meal?

ideas!

nutrition
type of food
cost
preparation time
occasion



Now speak

1. Compare these pictures and say how nutritious each meal is. Use the notes you have made, some of the expressions suggested below and the vocabulary on this page.

I think ... offers ... whereas ... In my opinion ... is nutritious because is good/bad for you because ...

The meal in picture ... is more/less ... than the one in picture ...

2. Now say when you would prefer to eat each type of meal and why, using expressions like those given below.

For special occasions I would ... When I am ... I would enjoy ... Since I enjoy ... I would prefer ...

VOCABULARY

Pictures A and B

convenient	nutritious
fast/slow service	outdoors
formal/informal	a quick bite/snack
good/bad quality	reservation
junk food	take-away

Pictures C and D

balanced meal	high in protein
beneficial	ingredients
calories	nutrients
elaborate	source of vitamins
fibre	time-consuming
four-course meal	wholesome

WRITING

a review

Discuss the topic

- Do you read reviews about restaurants? Why/Why not?
- Which features of a restaurant (food, menu, service, price, décor, location, etc.) do you think are the most important? Why?

Sample writing

1. Read the review of a restaurant below. What features (food, price, atmosphere, etc.) of the restaurant does the writer refer to?

You see this announcement in your college English-language magazine.

REVIEWS WANTED

Have you been to a new restaurant lately?
Write us a review telling us what you did or did not like there.
Would you recommend this place to our readers?
 We will publish the best articles in next month's issue.

RESTAURANT review



Not only is the City of London famous for the Bank Of England, but its restaurants also have an excellent reputation. A new restaurant, The Lemon Tree, opened its doors last week in the shadow of the Tower of London. I went to try out its set menu and the place was full of customers.

The decoration was very stylish. A simple wooden floor, white

walls and beautiful photographs of Mediterranean landscapes. The food was fresh and healthy, organic ingredients were used. I particularly enjoyed the 'norma' pasta with tomato sauce, aubergines, onions, basil and ricotta cheese. I accompanied it with a dish called 'frutti di mare'. It was perfect!

However, on the downside, I do have to point out that the food

took a long time to arrive at the table. Additionally, although it was a set menu, the bill was still rather high.

I would definitely recommend The Lemon Tree to anyone who enjoys good food. The chef does an excellent job and the food is exquisite, however it is a good idea to take your credit card with you as it is a bit on the expensive side.

2. Read the review again and answer the following questions.

In which paragraph does the writer:

- a. state his/her overall opinion and make a recommendation?
- b. briefly refer to the service?
- c. comment on the food?
- d. refer to the location of the restaurant?
- e. talk about the décor?

3. a. How does the writer make the review more interesting?
 b. Find the adjectives the writer uses to describe the nouns below.

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|------------|
| 1. _____ | photographs | 5. _____ | reputation |
| 2. _____ | side | 6. _____ | food |
| 3. _____ | ingredients | 7. _____ | decoration |
| 4. _____ | menu | | |

Plan

Reviews can be written for places such as restaurants, cafés, etc. as well as for books, films, plays, etc. Below is a general plan for a review, with questions to help you when planning one. Read the plan and compare it to the sample.

<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give some general information about the restaurant/café / film/play/book 	<p>For a restaurant/café: <i>What is the name of the restaurant/café?</i> <i>What type of food/drinks does it offer?</i> <i>Is it family owned or does it belong to a national or global chain/organisation?</i> <i>Where is it located?</i> <i>Is it popular (with teenagers, office workers, couples, families)?</i></p> <p>For a film/play/book: <i>What is the title of the film/play/book?</i> <i>What type of film/play/book is it?</i> <i>Who is the director/playwright/author?</i> <i>Who are the main characters/protagonists? (could also be included in the main part)</i> <i>Where/When is the film/play/book set? (could also be included in the main part)</i></p>
<p>Main Part (2-3 paragraphs)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give a brief summary of the style, atmosphere and size of the restaurant/café/plot of the film/book/ play • include comments on different aspects of the restaurant/café (food, service, price) / film/play (acting, music) / book (style of writing) 	<p>For a restaurant/café: <i>How is it decorated?</i> <i>Is the setting formal or informal (suitable for special occasions, fast food, self-service)?</i> <i>Is the menu local, international, ethnic?</i> <i>What ingredients are used (fresh or pre-prepared)?</i> <i>What is the standard of the service and the average cost of a meal?</i> <i>Is there anything you want to comment on specifically (the chef is a TV celebrity, the music, special dishes)?</i></p> <p>For a film/play/book: <i>What is the film/play/book about?</i> <i>What are the main events?</i> <i>What happens to the characters?</i> <i>What details about the characters are important?</i> <i>Is there anything you would like to comment on specifically (acting, directing, music, special effects, style of writing, etc.)?</i></p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state your opinion • make a recommendation 	<p><i>What is your overall opinion? (briefly explain why)</i> <i>What did/didn't you like?</i> <i>Would you recommend it?</i></p>

Guide to writing

- When writing a review, be specific because the reader may not be familiar with the restaurant/café/book/play/film you are describing.
- Make a plan before you begin writing.
- Decide whether your review will be positive, negative or balanced.
- Remember to include all the necessary basic information. Refer to the plan on page 73 and make comments about significant features such as: food, price, service, atmosphere, décor (*for a restaurant/café*)/plot and setting, actors/protagonists and their performance/role (*for a film/play/book*); mention other features such as size of portions, hygiene (*for a restaurant/café*)/music, special effects (*for a film/play*)/length, style of writing (*for a book*).
- Do not include too many details. For a film/play/book mention only the main points of the plot and do not reveal the ending.
- Include your comments in a separate paragraph and don't forget to justify your ideas.
- Pay attention to tenses. For a restaurant/café use the Present Simple for references concerning the fixed features of the establishment such as décor, and the Past Simple for comments that reflect your personal opinion on aspects such as the food and service. For a film/play/book use the Present Simple when describing the plot.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary to make your review interesting. You can also use questions and exclamation marks.
- Use set phrases/expressions in your review. Look at the tables for ideas.

Restaurant/café

Introduction and main paragraphs

The restaurant/café opened ...
 It belongs to ...
 The restaurant/café seats ... 30 ... 60 ... 150
 It is open lunchtimes and every evening / 24/7 ...
 It serves Italian/Chinese/vegetarian dishes ...
 It is always crowded with office workers/university students/teenagers ...
 Only in-season vegetables and fruit are used ...
 All the staff are well-trained, polite and the service fast and pleasant ...

Comments

I get the impression that the restaurant's management pays attention to every detail/
 is not very interested in making it an enjoyable meal.
 I can't help feeling that it needs a new coat of paint and that the music was far too loud.
 The starters/main courses/desserts were tasty/delicious/tasteless/unappealing.
 The most outstanding feature of the menu is the chef's speciality of ... traditional chicken casserole/ice-cream sundaes/fresh fruit cocktails.
 The cost of the meal was cheaper than expected/reasonably priced/not really value for money/far too high ...
 There are always entertainers there for the children.

Conclusion

This restaurant is a hit/success with restaurant-goers/customers.
 Everything was first class and I definitely recommend it to anyone who enjoys good food.
 It was a disappointing experience and I would not recommend it/I won't be going there again in a hurry.
 Don't miss this place!
 It's a waste of time and money!

Film/Play	
Introduction/Plot	<p>The film was released ...</p> <p>It is a comedy/drama/adventure film/thriller, etc.</p> <p>It was directed by ...</p> <p>The film stars ...</p> <p>... plays/has the leading/starring role.</p> <p>The role of ... is played by ...</p> <p>The film/play is about ...</p> <p>The plot becomes interesting/complicated when ...</p>
Comments	<p>It's a high-quality production.</p> <p>The script/acting is poor.</p> <p>It is badly/beautifully directed.</p> <p>The opening scenes are breathtaking.</p> <p>The most outstanding feature(s) is/are the music/special effects/hair-raising stunts, etc.</p> <p>The acting is of a high standard.</p> <p>It's action-packed.</p> <p>It has realistic dialogues.</p> <p>The ending is (un)predictable/disappointing/spine-chilling.</p> <p>It portrays ... successfully.</p>
Conclusion	<p>The film is a box-office hit.</p> <p>You'll be sitting on the edge of your seat during the whole film.</p> <p>Don't miss (out on seeing) it.</p> <p>It is (not) worth seeing.</p> <p>It's a waste of time and money.</p> <p>I was highly disappointed by the film/play.</p> <p>It's a masterpiece of its kind.</p> <p>It's (un)suitable for children.</p>

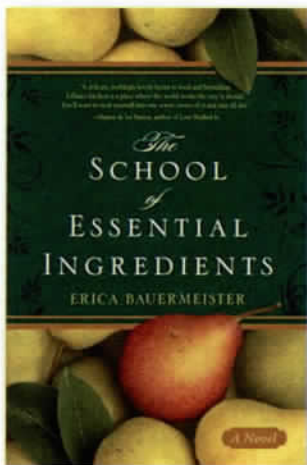
Book	
Introduction/Plot	<p>This book is a best seller.</p> <p>The book is written by ...</p> <p>It is a novel/a classic/an adventure story/a mystery, etc.</p> <p>It came out in ...</p> <p>It was published in/by ...</p> <p>The book tells the story of ...</p> <p>The main character is ...</p> <p>The story is based on ...</p> <p>The hero/heroine of the story ...</p>
Comments	<p>This book is badly/well written.</p> <p>The opening chapters are so appealing that you want to keep on reading.</p> <p>The book contains detailed/vivid descriptions of the characters.</p> <p>The book is very descriptive and informative.</p> <p>The plot is weak/confusing/slow in development.</p> <p>It has a surprising end.</p>
Conclusion	<p>You will find it hard to put down.</p> <p>It is (not) worth reading.</p> <p>If you haven't read it, make sure you get a copy.</p> <p>It is a big let-down from start/beginning to finish/end.</p> <p>It's a classic.</p> <p>I found the book boring/exciting.</p> <p>It appeals to all ages.</p> <p>I definitely recommend it.</p>

Writing practice

1. a. Read the book review below. Fill in the blanks by choosing the right word from the box. There are three extra words which you do not need to use.

brilliant	mouth-watering	put down
story	published	feelings
events	inspire	adapted
ending	drawn	
ingredients	characters	

The School of Essential Ingredients



Anyone who appreciates the beauty of food will find this a book hard to (1) _____. First (2) _____ in 2009, Erica Bauermeister's *The School of Essential Ingredients* is about cookery... and yet not about cookery. The most important feature is its strong and appealing main (3) _____.

The book starts with American restaurant owner Lillian waiting for the new students to arrive for her cookery class. The real (4) _____ however, is the way that food acts as a means of communicating the (5) _____ of the book's characters. Lillian's eight students all come from different backgrounds and, through a series of (6) _____, each person finds that cookery helps them

understand and deal with their problems.

The individual characters of the students are clearly (7) _____ - and readers are sure to find one of them expressing their own feelings. The use of food to explain these characters is both (8) _____ and original.

This book is not for everyone. Low on action, it relies on vivid writing to tell its story. One thing is certain though; with its (9) _____ descriptions of Lillian's recipes, if you don't already love cooking, this book is sure to (10) _____ you to start.

All in all, the book is as wonderful and delicious as you would expect a cup of hot chocolate to be. Only that when it's over, you find yourself asking for some more.

- b. Below is the conclusion of a film review which expresses a negative view. Rewrite the conclusion so that it expresses a positive view. Use some of the set phrases and expressions given in the table on page 75.

On the whole, I was highly disappointed by the film. For those of you who enjoy films packed with action, suspense, mystery and intrigue this is not a film for you. Not only does it lack imagination, but it is also boring and uneventful. For this reason, it's a waste of time and money.

2. Task for homework

You see this announcement in a magazine for teenagers. *Send us your review of a local café.* Write your **review**, giving the necessary details and saying whether you would recommend it or not (140-190 words).