

Language Learning Materials Reviews

With learner training and language for reviews

Choose one (specific) thing for learning English, preferably something that your partner knows or at least has heard of. Describe its good points and bad points, who it is most and least suitable for, etc, as if you were writing an Amazon review. Your partner will listen and then comment and/ or ask you for more details.

Suggested phrases for reviewing materials

- cheap/ reasonable – expensive/ overpriced
- complicated/ tricky – easy to use
- (in)effective
- flexible/ adaptable
- including
- innovative – traditional
- leading
- overrated
- packed with
- pocket-sized
- radical – tried and tested
- recommended
- similar to
- simple (but effective)
- (un)suitable
- time consuming
- tricky
- underrated
- worth(while) – worthless
- Looking at...
- In addition
- An additional... is...
- On the other hand
- On the other side of the coin
- Turning from the advantages to the disadvantages
- Moving onto...
- Despite....,...
- Nevertheless,.../ Nonetheless,...
- All in all/ Overall
- For all those reasons,...

Suggested questions

- Can it...?
- Can you... with it?
- Did you have any problems with...?
- Do you need...?
- Do you think it will...?
- Does it claim...?
- Does it live up to...?
- How does it...?
- How long did you...?
- How does it compare to...?
- How long would it take to...?
- How useful is it for...?
- I found that... Do you have the same experience?
- I heard that... Is that true?
- Is it better for... (than...)?
- Is it easy/ difficult to...?
- Is it suitable for...?
- Is it useful for...?
- Is it worth...?
- Is... an advantage or a disadvantage?
- It sounds... Is that right?/ Is that fair?
- Overall, do you think...?
- When was it (first/ last)...?
- Who wrote/ published...?
- Would you recommend it for...?

Ask about any words or phrases you don't understand, questions you couldn't answer, etc.

Without looking above, brainstorm suitable language for reviews, including adjectives, opposites, phrases for looking at both sides, etc.

Kinds of materials	Specific materials	Things to talk about
app(lication)	● 6 Minute English	● advantages/
audiobook	● Academic Word List	benefits/ selling
business English materials	● ALC English Journal	points/ positive
CD (ROM)	● BBC Learning English	points/ good
(kids') chant/ song	● drama/ News Review	points
children's book/ DVD/ TV/...	● Berlitz phrasebooks	● disadvantages/
collocations practice	● Business Result	drawbacks/
comic (strip)	● Busuu.com	negative points/
correspondence course	● DuoLingo.com	bad points
(learner's/ electronic) dictionary	● Eigo de Asobo	● accuracy
DVD	● Email English	● availability
e-book	● Flashcard Stash	● comparisons to
Facebook page/ feed	● Focus on IELTS	others
graded reader/ing materials	● Google Translate	● content
grammar checker	● General Service List	● cost
(self-study) grammar materials	● Headway	● design/
language exchange/ school/...	● IELTSbuddy.com	attractiveness
list of language learning tips	● Johnny Grammar	● difficulty
list of recommendations	● Kaplan test preparation	● ease of use
list of useful language	● LearnEnglishKids	● effectiveness
(listings/ freebie) magazine	● Learning Time with Timmy	● effort needed
model texts/ model dialogues	● Lingual.ly	● features
MOOC	● Market Leader	● future
newspaper	● (FCE) Masterclass	● functions
online lecture/ presentation	● Murphy's English	● history
parallel text books	● Grammar in Use	● level
phrasebook	● MyWordBook	● market share
podcast	● NHK materials	● marketing
poem/ book of poetry	● Oxford Advanced	(claims)
pronunciation materials		● motivation



radio programme	Learner's Dictionary	● popularity
smartphone game	● Oxford Express series	● portability
software	● Penguin Readers	● reliability
speech	● Rosetta Stone	● reuse
study abroad (agent/ provider)	● Simple English	● size/ length
(writing) style guide	Wikipedia	● suitability for...
test preparation materials	● SpeakingPal English	● techniques
textbook	Tutor	● time
translation materials	● SuperSimpleSongs	● usefulness
TV programme	● TED.com	● uses
Twitter feed	● The Business 2.0	● overall judgement
video	● The English We Speak	● recommendations
(self-study) vocabulary materials	● Vocabla	
website	● Vocabulary in Use	
YouTube channel	● Voxy	