

## Writing skills practice: Skyfall film review – exercises

Look at the review of *Skyfall* and do the exercises to improve your writing skills.

### Preparation

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- |    |   |             |              |
|----|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | If you are writing a film review, you should write about a film that you have watched and can remember well.  | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | You should give your opinion of the film.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | You should mention basic information about the film such as the title, genre and actors' names.               | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | You should say what happens in the film's ending.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | You should talk about the acting, the music and the special effects and other individual aspects of the film. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | You should tell readers whether you think the film is worth seeing.   | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |



Skyfall is one of the best **action films** in recent years. Released in 2012, it **stars** Daniel Craig as secret agent James Bond and Spanish actor Javier Bardem in the role of Raoul Silva, the **villain** in this film.

**The plot involves** a genius computer hacker who is an ex-spy. He wants to take revenge on the organisation he used to work for and James Bond has to prevent this from happening. There are a lot of exciting action scenes as Bond pursues him around the world. **Can he stop him before it is too late?**

The film is set in a variety of **locations** including Istanbul, Shanghai, Macau, London and Scotland, which gives it a very international atmosphere. The **soundtrack** is impressive and includes the theme song 'Skyfall', performed by English singer Adele. The **acting** is also **of a very high standard** and Bardem brings his character to life with a **dazzling and memorable** performance.

**I would highly recommend** Skyfall, especially if you are keen on action films. It will have you on the edge of your seat until the very end and I am sure you will not regret watching it.

**Rating: ★★★★★ A must-see!**

### Top Tips for writing

1. Use vocabulary specifically related to films.
2. Say what happens in the film, but ...
3. ... don't give away the ending!
4. Talk about different aspects of the film.
5. Use a variety of adjectives and descriptive phrases.
6. Finish by saying whether you would recommend the film or not, and why.

**Writing skills practice: Skyfall film review – exercises**
**1. Check your understanding: multiple choice**

Circle the best phrase to complete these sentences.

1. *Skyfall* is a musical / an action film / a comedy .
2. The film was produced / came out on DVD / came out in cinemas in 2012.
3. The main character is Daniel Craig / James Bond / Raoul Silva .
4. James Bond / Javier Bardem / Raoul Silva is an ex-spy who wants revenge.
5. There are scenes in / characters from / songs from Istanbul, Shanghai, Macau, London and Scotland.
6. The writer especially liked / didn't really like / had no opinion about Javier Bardem's performance.
7. The writer recommends *Skyfall* only to / especially to / to everybody except people who like action films.
8. The writer thinks the film is interesting / funny / exciting until the very end.

**2. Check your writing: gap fill – film review vocabulary**

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

soundtrack	role	plot	set
characters	stars	performance	scene

1. The film *Iron Man 3* \_\_\_\_\_ Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man.
2. Voldemort in the Harry Potter films is played by English actor Ralph Fiennes. It was not an easy \_\_\_\_\_ to play because he had to wear lots of make-up.
3. Jennifer Lawrence became a huge star after her excellent \_\_\_\_\_ in *The Hunger Games*.
4. *The Hunger Games* \_\_\_\_\_ contains some wonderful music and was produced by rock legend T-Bone Burnett.
5. *Life is Beautiful* is \_\_\_\_\_ in Italy in 1939.
6. *Looper* has a very complicated \_\_\_\_\_ involving time travel, and it is quite difficult to follow the story at some points.
7. Scriptwriters sometimes create \_\_\_\_\_ who are based on people they have met.
8. In the opening \_\_\_\_\_ of *Skyfall*, Bond accidentally gets shot by his partner.

### 3. Check your writing: gap fill – how to write a film review

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

aspects	plot	paragraphs
recommendations	opinion	structure

A film review should be well organised with a clear <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. One way of doing this is to divide your review into four <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

The first paragraph can be quite short and contain your brief overall <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the film. You will explain this opinion in later paragraphs. Also give some basic facts like the names of the actors and the year of release.

The second paragraph can be a summary of the <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, but make sure you don't give away the ending.

The third paragraph can be your opinion of various <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of the film such as the acting, the music, the special effects and the script. You can praise or criticise them.

The final paragraph should include your <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Should people watch this film? Give reasons why or why not. You can also suggest who the film would most appeal to, for example teenagers, people who like action films or fans of spy films.

#### Discussion

What films have you seen lately? What did you think of them?