

## Restaurant Review

*Goals for this Module:*

- express opinions using complete sentences
- learn how to use descriptive language to voice an opinion
- write clear and specific topic sentences
- write basic descriptions
- practice revising weak paragraphs
- write a restaurant review

### *Part I. Idea Generating – Restaurant Review*



**Exercise 1 (pair work)** – Make a list of the restaurant qualities that attract you to a restaurant. Make another list of qualities that you don't like.

*Example:*     **Good Qualities**

*Cheap prices*

*Good location*

**Negative Qualities**

*Noisy*

**Exercise 2** – Use the chart below to gather information about restaurants.

*Example: Shakey’s pizza in Chigasaki*

**Restaurant Review Data Sheet**

<b>Categories</b>	<i>Chigasaki Shakey’s Pizza</i>	<b>Restaurant 2</b>	<b>Restaurant 3</b>
<b>Location:</b>	<i>Convenient. Near the train station. Out of my way to go there.</i>		
<b>Menu:</b>	<i>pizza, salad bar, spaghetti, beer,</i>		
<b>Type of Restaurant:</b>	<i>American Italian Fast Food Japanese Style</i>		
<b>Price:</b>	<i>Expensive. It’s ¥2,000 for two unless you go at the “all-you-can-eat” special time.</i>		
<b>Clientele:</b>	<i>Families, school kids, couples. It’s a good first date restaurant. It’s good for groups.</i>		
<b>Atmosphere:</b>	<i>Clean but noisy. Pleasant. Good view from windows.</i>		
<b>Reputation:</b>	<i>Famous name...</i>		
<b>Food Quality</b>	<i>Just okay. The potato salad is too sweet. The pizza is...</i>		
<b>Service</b>	<i>It depends on when you go. Sometimes when it’s busy the service is too slow.</i>		
<b>Your Experience:</b>	<i>Review all the data and then write a paragraph about the restaurant.</i>		

**Exercise 3** – Compare your list with other students’ lists.

**Part II. Analyzing a Restaurant Review**



**Reading 1**—Read the following restaurant review and answer the questions.

Krishna’s Fish Head Restaurant is a little neighborhood **joint** near Chinatown in Kuala Lumpur. This unique place is mainly known for its exotic Indian seafood. Since it has reasonable prices and is only several blocks from the financial center, it is popular with the business lunch crowd. It is well known in the city for its **authenticity**. Krishna’s offers several set menu choices every day in addition to its regular menu **featuring** fish or vegetarian cuisine. Some of the popular dishes of this restaurant are fish head curry, bindi masala, peas kurma and other Indian dishes. Although the portions are **ample**, you may want to leave room for some Indian pastries for dessert.

One of the other main attractions of this restaurant is the traditional Indian décor and soft background music that provide a perfect ambience for an enjoyable meal. It is this ambience that has helped make Krishna’s not just a lunchtime **hit**, but also a **hot spot** for couples in the evening. The dining room has an **assortment** of statues representing the restaurant’s Indian heritage. There are also many fine works of art displayed on the walls by the dining tables. The restaurant has a number of comfortable booths that offer privacy for a more romantic dinner as well as several tables on the outside patio near a fountain of an elephant **spurting** water.

All in all, Krishna’s Fish Head Restaurant is a fantastic place to enjoy not-so-spicy Indian cuisine. Your meal will be both healthy and **hearty**. The curries are exquisite, and the fish is always fresh. The staff always greet you with a smile and are helpful when describing the dishes on the menu. You can expect the special treatment every time, but you never have to expect to pay too much. Krishna’s gets an “A” in every category and a “big thumbs up” for the delicious food.

**Krishna’s Fish Head Restaurant** is located in the Little India neighborhood at:  
**888 Jalan Tuna Ra Seay, Kuala Lumpur 50555**  
**Tel: 03-555-4770**

### Exercise 1 – Questions

- 1) What is the writer’s opinion of this restaurant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Do you think the writer’s opinion is biased? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What useful information is not included in this review?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What words help you “visualize” the restaurant and “taste” the food?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Would you try this restaurant? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What do the words in **bold** mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What kind of sentence in sentence 3?



### **Part III. Topic Sentences**

A strong topic sentence needs to:

- Have a clear focus that is not too broad or too narrow. If the focus is too broad or too narrow the reader will be confused about the writer's purpose.

*Too Broad: There are many restaurants in Tokyo.*

*Too Narrow: Brian's Bread Basket is an Irish restaurant.*

*Clear Focus: The variety of restaurants in Tokyo provides an opportunity to experience other cultures' cuisine without leaving Japan.*

- Have one (and only one) clearly stated topic.

*Not Clear: Academic success is important for getting a job and joining a club is an opportunity to make friends that can lead to social networking.*

*Clear: University students should join a social group or club to make friends and enhance their networking opportunities.*

(**Note:** A strong topic sentence will often reveal the writer's opinion; however, many topic sentences may just focus on an idea that is not necessarily an opinion.)

**Exercise 1** —Which topic sentences are strong? Which are weak? Why?

- 1) It is important to choose a restaurant that serves healthy food when planning a banquet.
- 2) Healthy food is essential for planning a banquet and that is also how I eat at home.
- 3) I would never work in a restaurant because I eat in restaurants.
- 4) The Hungry Hippo is a restaurant.
- 5) The Crazy Cow, one of the most popular restaurants in Daegu, is famous for its imported beef and "old west" décor.
- 6) Dinning out can be cheaper than cooking for a single person.
- 7) Many people like restaurants.
- 8) I think some restaurants do a good business.

## Exercise 2

Rewrite the weak topic sentences.

## Exercise 3

Write topic sentences for the following topics (*topic + idea* or *topic + opinion*):

1) university club –

2) student housing –

3) Korean food –

4) new restaurant –

5) university life –

6) Internet –

7) cell phones –

8) restaurant ambience –

***Part IV. Macro and Micro Editing – Writing Descriptions***

Revise the following paragraph to provide a more vivid description of the café. Use a variety of sentence structures and descriptive words.

Jazz & Sanjo is the best café in Yokohama. It is a neighborhood café not on a big road. It is usually quiet. On Friday night and Saturday night it is busy. The food is delicious and the desserts are good, too. They have many different kinds of tea, coffee and other drinks there. The atmosphere is very nice. It is comfortable. There is a patio. There is a piano. There are also some interesting paintings and pictures.

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### ***Part V. Writing a Restaurant Review***

Write a review of a restaurant. The following are some guidelines for writing a review:

- Begin with a general statement that mentions the restaurant's name and location.
- It is also possible to begin with a "hook" and then provide specifics about the restaurant. (A hook is the first sentence or two of a review. The purpose of a hook is to grab the reader's attention.)
- **Food** – Describe the food on the menu in detail. You can mention a particular dish that you have had there, if you think it is appropriate.
- **Atmosphere** – Discuss the exterior and interior décor. Also mention the ambience, background music and special features of the restaurant.
- **Service** – Some reviews may give details about the service from the first moment a customer enters the restaurant until the customer has finished the meal and leaves. It is okay to mention the name of a server or chef that is exceptionally friendly, helpful or talented.
- **Clientele** – Mention what type of people like to go there. Is there a dress code?
- **Price** – It is important to mention the general price range; however, specifics are not necessary. A "hint" about whether the place is expensive or cheap may be adequate.
- **Location** – Is the restaurant hard to find?
- Other details – Do customers need reservations? What are the hours? Is it crowded on weekends?
- The "Bottom Line" – Overall Conclusion. Make a couple of final comments and give the restaurant some type of "score" that will help other people decide whether they want to go there or not.
- Provide the address and telephone number at the bottom of the review.