

Four stars for me! **LEARNING OUTCOME** learn how to write an online review

Everyday life

1 Look at the photo and answer the questions.

Where are the people and what are they doing?
 What do people usually use travel websites for?



Everyday vocabulary

2 Below are some features of a hotel which people think about when choosing holiday accommodation. How could you explain the words and expressions in *italics*?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>user recommendations</i> | comfortable beds |
| <i>hotel amenities</i> | great restaurants <i>in walking distance</i> |
| fast Wi-Fi connection | <i>stunning views</i> |
| a breakfast <i>buffet</i> with a <i>wide selection</i> of food | on the <i>outskirts</i> of the city |
| helpful <i>staff</i> | <i>a lift</i> |

3 Work in pairs. Think of other things that are important to people when choosing holiday accommodation and add them to the list in 2.

4 Work in pairs. Decide which three features of a hotel are the most important for you.

Reading

5 Read the review. Why did James give the hotel four stars?

James has returned from a holiday in Budapest. He has written a review of the hotel on a travel website.

BEST VIEW HOTEL BUDAPEST ★★★★★

My family stayed at the Best View Hotel in Budapest for one week last August. We chose it because of user recommendations on this site. We were there as tourists. (1) visiting this city.

The hotel amenities included a swimming pool and a gym. There was a fast wi-fi connection and everything was very clean. As for the food, we loved the breakfast buffet. There was a wide selection of cereals, (2) The reception staff were very helpful and gave good advice like getting to the museums before they opened to avoid long queues. Another positive thing was the beds, (3) By far the best thing about the hotel was the fact that there were loads of great restaurants in walking distance and the view of the city, (4)

Unfortunately, (5), it was on the outskirts of the city and we had to get a bus every day, which wasted a lot of time. One annoying thing was the fact that the lift sometimes didn't work.

Overall, I would recommend the Best View Hotel. (6) or couples, but not for older people who need a reliable lift. So, four stars from me.

6 Read and complete the review with the phrases (a-f).

- | | |
|--|---|
| a ... they were so comfortable! | d ... the hotel was not centrally located ... |
| b It would be suitable for families ... | e ... which was absolutely stunning! |
| c ... and every day there was something different. | f It was our first time ... |

Over to you!

7 You are going to write a review for a traveller's website. Follow the steps below. Use the expressions in the Everyday English Toolkit and the vocabulary in 2.

- Think about a place you have stayed on holiday or invent a place. Write the place at the top of the page and decide how many stars you would give it (1–5).
- Explain the details of your visit (who travelled with you, reason for visit, number of days, etc.).
- Write any positive things about the accommodation.
- Write any negative things about the accommodation.
- Say whether you would or wouldn't recommend this place and what type of person would like it.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH TOOLKIT: DESCRIBING ACCOMMODATION FOR A TRAVELLERS' WEBSITE

Put these words and phrases from the review under the appropriate heading.

As for ...; Overall ...; One annoying thing ...; However ...; By far the best thing ...

Introducing a topic

Regarding the (room)

(1)

Saying something positive

Another thing I liked ...

(2)

Introducing a contrast

On the other hand, ...

(3)

Saying something negative

I didn't like (the fact that) ...

(4)

Expressing a final opinion

In general, ...

On balance, ...

(5)