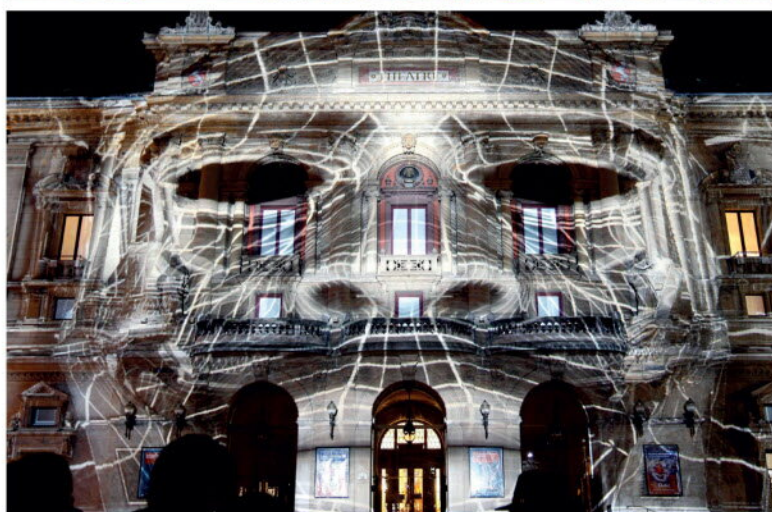


8.4 Speaking and writing

GOALS ■ Give your impressions of an event ■ Write a review

Speaking & Listening giving your impressions of an event

- 1a With a partner, describe the photos. What adjectives could you use?



- b Have you ever been to an event like this, or similar? Tell your partner about it.

- 2 8.12))) Listen to a conversation between Anya and her friend Zac, who are at the festival. Answer the questions with Anya (A), Zac (Z) or both (B). Who ...?

- 1 enjoyed the combination of ancient and modern
- 2 was slightly disturbed by the giant moving face
- 3 found the event too crowded
- 4 wasn't very impressed by the fish in the phone box

- 3a Complete the extracts from the listening in exercise 2 with words from the box.

bit highlight just live liking particularly point that way

- 1 What I _____ like is the contrast of old and new.
- 2 ... the colours are _____ stunning ...
- 3 ... I really like the _____ the buildings seem to come alive ...
- 4 ... the _____ for me was that building with the giant face ...
- 5 I found it a _____ disturbing, though.
- 6 It's a bit too packed for my _____, ...
- 7 I didn't really see the _____ of it.
- 8 ... I just wasn't _____ impressed.
- 9 It didn't really _____ up to my expectations, ...

- b 8.13))) Listen and check. Then practise saying the sentences.

- 4a **TASK** Think of an art exhibition, musical, play, concert, film or another event you have been to recently. Make a note of what you liked and what you didn't.

- b Work in groups. Describe the event, using the language in the Language for speaking box.

LANGUAGE FOR SPEAKING describing your impressions

• Positive impressions

It's (just) stunning/magical/breathtaking/fascinating.

It's really impressive/inspiring.

What I particularly liked/loved was ... + noun/noun clause

I like the way ... + verb clause

For me the highlight was ... + noun/verb -ing

It was well worth ... + verb -ing

• Negative impressions

I wasn't that impressed by ...

I found it a bit dull/weird/disturbing/disappointing.

I didn't see the point of it.

It's a bit/much too ... for my liking.

It didn't really live up to my expectations.

Writing & Reading writing a review

- 5 Work with a partner. Discuss the questions.
- 1 Do you enjoy going to the circus?
 - 2 Are circuses an important part of your country's culture?
 - 3 Why might some people disapprove of circuses?
- 6a Complete the online review of a circus show with words from the box.

disappointed impossibly individual kindly magnificent
talent thrilling wooden

HOME WRITE COMMENT SEARCH CONTACT

Review: Gifford's Circus

When I won tickets for Gifford's Circus in a competition, I wasn't convinced I'd enjoy it. In fact, I nearly gave the tickets away. Thank goodness I didn't, as it turned out to be one of the most ¹_____ shows I've ever seen!

The secret of its appeal is that it combines the charm of a small, old-fashioned circus with world-class ²_____ from performers recruited from countries as far afield as ^a Russia, China and Ethiopia. The ninety-minute show ^b includes a huge variety of breathtaking displays: acrobats, gymnasts, fire-throwing jugglers and performing animals, all of which are accompanied by live music. What makes it unusual is that all the acts are linked by a story, so it's more than just a series of ³_____, unrelated performances.

The fire-throwing jugglers went down very well with the audience, as did the man who added chair after chair to an ⁴_____ tall tower on which he was balancing. I could barely look!

For me, the highlight of the show was the animals: a ⁵_____ horse ridden by the circus owner, dogs jumping through hoops and riding horseback, ^c and the most enormous turkey – and it really was huge! – strutting majestically round the ring. It was an extraordinary sight!

^d Gifford's describes itself as a 'humane circus', and treats its animals ⁶_____. Their dogs, for example, are rescue dogs, abandoned by their previous owners, and trained to perform using treats and rewards, not punishment. They certainly seemed well cared for.

The show is on until the end of the month. ^e If you get a chance to go, take it. You won't be ⁷_____. A word of advice: take a cushion, as the seats are ⁸_____ benches.

- b Read the review again. Put the following information in the right order, 1–5.
- An overall impression
 - Highlights of the show
 - Background information about the company
 - Recommendations
 - Contents of the show

- 7 Read the rules about punctuation in the Language for writing box. Match the underlined phrases in the review to some of the rules. Some go with more than one rule.

LANGUAGE FOR WRITING punctuation: commas, inverted commas, colons and dashes

Commas (,) are generally used to reflect pauses in speech, e.g.

- 1 to separate words in a list: *There were jugglers, acrobats, gymnasts and a clown.*
- 2 to separate clauses in complex sentences: *Their dogs are rescue dogs, abandoned by their previous owners, and trained to perform using treats.*

Inverted commas (' ' or " ") are used:

- 3 around direct speech: *'This show is spectacular,' she said.* or when quoting from somewhere else: *One magazine review called it 'the greatest show on Earth'.*

A colon (:) is used:

- 4 to indicate that what follows it is an explanation or expansion of what comes before it: *Bring the following documents: driving licence, insurance certificate and passport.*

Dashes (–) are used, in pairs:

- 5 to separate an interruption from the rest of the sentence. *The show included acrobats, jugglers – these were the highlight for me – and performing animals.*

If the interruption comes at the end of the sentence, only one dash is used.

- 8 Add punctuation to the sentences.
- 1 The words magical and thrilling are often used to describe Gifford's
 - 2 We laughed clapped and cheered throughout the show
 - 3 There are tickets left for the following performances Wednesday 6 p.m. Thursday 3 p.m. and Friday 12 p.m.
 - 4 Next year if the circus returns next year I will definitely go again
- 9a **TASK** Write an online review for an event you have been to recently.
- b Exchange reviews with a partner. Check the punctuation and grammar. Does the review make you want to attend the event?

