ESOL Higher Writing: Everyday Life

Restaurant Review

Spelling, punctuation and vocabulary are generally adequate. However, a limited range of grammar coupled with inadequate understanding of sentence structure, tense and number prevent this candidate from gaining a mark higher then the 6 awarded.

The candidate covers the points of the task adequately and in sequence. The candidate does make some attempt to meet the style of an online review with the opening sentence and by comparing the experience to expectations. However, there is only a brief reference to the background – that the restaurant was rated 5 on a popular review website. The text here merely says, "*This restaurant shouldn't get 5 star*", with no indication as to where it got this grading. The limited range of language prevents this from fully meeting the brief.

Coherence and cohesion are generally adequate, though paragraphing is loose in places, e.g. after line 1, paragraph 1, and paragraph 4, line 2. Vocabulary shows a sufficiently wide range for the task, with generally appropriate accuracy, without attaining a higher level. There are some spelling mistakes, e.g. *noise* for *noisy* in paragraphs 1 and 5 (though this may be a grammatical misunderstanding) and "*recoment*" in paragraph 5. In spite of these, spelling is generally good. Punctuation is adequate with the exception that the candidate has a loose grasp of sentences, e.g. after "*noise*" (paragraph 1), "*else*" (paragraph 2), "*hot*" (paragraph 4), and "*money*" (paragraph 5). The two sentences in paragraph 3 should either be broken with dashes or semi-colons or made into four sentences.

Although there is a certain flow to the grammatical structures, these are severly limited and there is nothing to indicate adequacy for a pass at Higher level. The candidate seems to have particular problems with number, e.g. "*one of waiter*", "*they was so annoying*" (paragraph 2), "*the prices for a meals was very expensive*" (paragraph 3). Use of tenses is also inconsistent. The candidate begins appropriately enough with the past simple in paragraph 1 but moves to the present simple in paragraph 2 before reverting to the past.