

EXERCISE 2

Read the information, then read the sentences from Paragraphs A–H. Do the EXERCISE.

The IELTS Reading matching headings task tests your understanding of the *gist* of a paragraph – this means how well you understand the **main idea** or **topic** of the paragraph.

It is often possible to quickly get a general understanding of the main ideas and topic of a text by reading **only**:

- the **final sentence** of the **introduction** (i.e. the first paragraph in the text)
- the **first sentence** of all the paragraphs in **the main body** (i.e. all the paragraphs between the introduction and the conclusion)
- the **final sentence** of the **conclusion** (i.e. the last paragraph in the text).

Final sentence of Paragraph A: ‘... It was also necessary for landowners to know their family background – so they could prove that a large castle or manor house really belonged to them, and not to another person further along a branch of the family tree who wanted it for themselves.’

First sentence of Paragraph B: ‘An interest in knowing who your ancestors were and what they did is, of course, something which is common in all cultures.’

First sentence of Paragraph C: ‘While some people are still interested in family trees as a way of making sure they can receive money or valuable items from a great-uncle or great-great grandparent, others have different motivations.’

First sentence of Paragraph D: ‘Part of what makes family-tree research so fascinating is the sense of uncovering a mystery as you find more clues – just like a detective would.’

First sentence of Paragraph E: ‘Before the age of the internet, if you wanted to find out about your family history, you would have needed to travel to different locations.’

First sentence of Paragraph F: ‘Researching your family tree has now become an ever more popular activity, partly for the reason that it has become much easier, faster and more convenient.’

First sentence of Paragraph G: 'Despite the advances of modern technology, it can still be a challenge to find your distant ancestors.'

Final sentence of Paragraph H: '... Rather than writing out the family tree in a book in the traditional way, they record stories, images and voices using audio and video recordings for their descendants to see one day.'

Match the main ideas with the sentences from Paragraphs A–H. Read the text on page 1 again if you need to.

A description of how people feel about ancestry
A method of learning about ancestry
A method of storing information about ancestry
A reason why people enjoy researching their family history
A reason why people needed to know their ancestry in the past
Different reasons why people might be interested in ancestry
Problems in learning about ancestry
Reasons why more people are learning about ancestry now

Paragraph A	
Paragraph B	
Paragraph C	
Paragraph D	
Paragraph E	
Paragraph F	
Paragraph G	
Paragraph H	