

EXERCISE 6

Read the information. Then read the headings that the student has chosen, the paragraphs and the reasons for the student's answers. The student's answers are incorrect. Then do the exercise.

In the IELTS Reading matching headings task, it is easy to choose the incorrect answer. The extra headings that you don't need, called 'distractors', often seem to be logical answers.

Paragraph D: **Creating family trees for future generations**

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. This kind of process was shown in the hugely popular programme 'Who Do You Think You Are?', which featured well-known TV personalities exploring their family origins. The show's researchers often found surprising information. One person, interviewer Jeremy Paxman, was disinterested at first. He believed it was more important to be 'forward-looking' – and think about the future rather than the past. Then he learnt that his great-grandmother had managed to raise nine children by herself after her husband died, even though she was extremely poor. He soon wanted to know more. Certainly this kind of programme has encouraged people to look for their own ancestors.

Student's reason:

I chose this heading for Paragraph D because the word 'future' is in the heading, and you can also see it in Paragraph D, in the sentence 'He believed it was more important to be "forward-looking" – and think about the future rather than the past.'

Paragraph E: **The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research**

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. People used to visit churches to look at their records, for example of the names of people who were born and died in the area. Another way to investigate family history would be to look through old newspapers that were stored in the basements of libraries, or to search through birth

and marriage certificates at the local town-council building. Not all of these visits, of course, would be successful. You needed to be very patient and have a lot of spare time to find out about your past.

Student's reason:

I chose this heading for Paragraph E because the word 'problems' is in that heading – and at the end of Paragraph E, the writer says 'You needed to be very patient and have a lot of spare time to find out about your past.' That sounds like a problem to me.

Think about the mistakes that the student made on page 1. Choose the correct answers to complete the advice. Read the student's answers on page 1 again if you need to.

1. After you read for gist, read the paragraph more carefully to check for the question or main idea/ synonyms and paraphrases of key words in the heading.
2. Make sure the heading matches one sentence in the paragraph/ the main idea of the whole paragraph.
3. The main idea of the paragraph can be found in one sentence in the paragraph/ all the way through the paragraph.
4. Don't choose a heading just because it uses exactly the same word(s) or phrase(s)/ the same idea(s) that you can see in the paragraph.
5. Make sure the heading paraphrases more than one word or phrase/ just one word or phrase in the paragraph.