

# READING

1 Complete the text with these words.

advent current cutting-edge facilitate  
flawed modifying pave unnerving

## DOCUMENTING MEMORIES



We know that the latest <sup>1</sup> ..... technology can be studied and used to <sup>2</sup> ..... our understanding of how memory works, which in turn helps to <sup>3</sup> ..... the way for medical developments. At the same time, however, the <sup>4</sup> ..... of mobile technology can actually be damaging the way we make memories. We used to go on trips, enjoy the view and then use our camera to take a photo or two. Our <sup>5</sup> ..... method is the reverse – we shoot first and remember later. It's <sup>6</sup> ..... to think that we have transformed the function of a photograph – from something we use to trigger a memory to something we create a memory from. And then we should consider the implications of the increasingly popular trend of <sup>7</sup> ..... our photos. Perhaps it's time to stop and reflect that this new way of creating memories is <sup>8</sup> .....

2 Read the article and choose the best description.

- 1 a series of essays on memory analysis
- 2 an artistic interpretation of how our memory changes from childhood to adulthood
- 3 a collection of personal accounts of how memory is distorted
- 4 an analysis of the role of memory in distinguishing fact from fiction

3 e Read the article again and choose from the paragraphs (A–G) the one which best fits each gap (1–6). There is one extra paragraph which you do not need to use.

A The root cause of this can often be is simply a case of another person saying that the events in question either never happened or else happened very differently from the way they are remembered and we are persuaded that our memory was faulty.

B As a result, psychologists have tried to generate false memories in psychology experiments. They simply get people to imagine events that never actually happened. This also explains the phenomenon of non-believed memories, which often involves people believing things that aren't true because they were led to believe them by a third party such as a newspaper headline or a therapy session.

C You might trust your own memory over theirs, but would you be right? Unfortunately not always. Feeling convinced that something was true or having vividly accurate memories that have no basis in real events is referred to as a 'non-believed' memory and further highlights the much-discussed fallibility of human memory.

D This is just one of several examples in the collection where there is the possibility that a person's memory was accurate and that it was the memories of those around him/her that were at fault, either forgetting an event completely or remembering it incorrectly. Nonetheless, as cited above, there is often indisputable external proof that the memory cannot be true.

E Before these studies, we only had access to unsubstantiated accounts of false memories. One of these is the now well-known claim by a celebrated singer that aged two she had encountered a huge black panther in the woods near Exmoor

while walking with her nanny. The story even made the national press. Although the nanny later admitted to having invented the sighting in order to get 'into the papers' the singer still has a vivid memory of the enormous black animal, a memory that she now knows to be completely false.

F Alternatively, it could be caused by a difficulty in being able to differentiate between the memory of something that physically happened and something that our minds created such as a dream.

G This is reinforced by one contributor's explanation that he truly remembers flying when he was a child. The belief that he had the ability to travel from place to place in the air is so strong that, although he knows it to have been impossible, he cannot forget the amazing feeling of freedom that flying brought to him, even today.

# The False Memory Archive

Have you ever had a heated discussion with someone you remember something from the past **vividly** in or yet they remember it in a completely different way? I ever been convinced that something happened, only to be told by someone else who shared the same experience that it never happened. How would you know which version of events to believe?

1 .....  
Although psychological experiments to manipulate and implant false memories have been carried out for some time, it is only recently that investigations into examples of false memories and why we create them have begun.

2 .....  
Theories developed through studying accounts like this demonstrate that the brain can be as creative as it is inaccurate when it comes to memory and is able to transform made-up stories and childhood emotions into remembered fact. This is the subject of a recently published collection made up of diverse real-life examples some of which are at times boring, but at others incredibly strange. It depicts how we end up rejecting 'memories' that we once believed to be true.

3 .....  
One contributor recalls the following memory: 'I spent my childhood in a small rural town in Peru, before my family moved to London in my early teens. My brother and I often **reminded** about our early years in Peru, especially about the succulent pear melons that we used to pick off the tree in the front yard of the house directly across from ours, before racing back home before the owner caught us. Ten years later, my brother returned to Peru and found that the pear melon tree was actually at the end of the road, about six houses down from ours. I was sceptical, but when I went back myself I saw that he was telling the truth. The tree wasn't even visible from our house. Not only that, but the man who lived opposite was delighted to see me.'

4 .....  
Another reason for determining a false memory is often quite simply its **implausibility**. For example, it is fairly common for someone to have clear recollections of being invisible or breathing underwater for unlimited amounts of time.

5 .....  
Moving on to why we have **subjectively** vivid memories that **contradict** real events, the answer is not entirely clear; however, it could be due to a psychological process in which our memories record events but they don't record accurately the source of the information. For example, we might believe we saw something happen, and in fact we did see it happen, but it was in a film or on TV.

6 .....  
Considering that our very identity and the way we see ourselves is a result of the innumerable events and experiences we have accumulated throughout our lives, it is **disconcerting**, to say the least, to find that perhaps some of the memories we treasure most never really happened in the first place.

#### 4 Match the words in bold in the article with the phrases in bold (1–8).

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 The artist urged us to look at it <b>using our own interpretation of it</b> .....   | 5 The idea was immediately dismissed based on <b>how impossible it was to prove</b> .....                 |
| 2 She can still picture the scene <b>in detail</b> .....  | 6 The results of the study <b>are the opposite of</b> the theory on memory retention. ....                |
| 3 Frank <b>gave</b> three examples to support his argument. ....  | 7 Not being able to remember the events leading up to the accident was <b>uncomfortable</b> for him. .... |
| 4 The response to the presentation <b>supported</b> the organiser's belief <b>that</b> he had made the right decision. .... | 8 We spent a lovely evening when we <b>remembered and talked about</b> our schooldays together. ....      |