

READING: MATCHING HEADINGS

Exercise 1: Read the information. Then skim read the paragraph and choose the correct heading.

Remember! To skim read a text, focus only on the main information. To do this, focus on the **nouns, verbs** and **adjectives** (in **bold** in the paragraph below).

Ancestry in the UK

Paragraph A

Up until relatively recently, English school children were often obliged to learn the names of the kings and queens that ruled the country from the 8th century to the 18th, and understand how they were related. This was no easy task. Sometimes a king would pass his kingdom to his son, but very often it would be a much more distant relative that took over. To become king, you would have to show you had royal blood in the family tree, and to do this, you would need to know exactly who all your ancestors were. 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.

The correct heading for **Paragraph A** is:

- A. How knowing your family tree could bring power and property
- B. The kind of buildings that wealthy relatives used to live in
- C. Which academic subjects most students would prefer not to study

Exercise 2: Read the information. Then skim read the next paragraphs and answer the question .

Ancestry in the UK

Paragraph B

An interest in knowing who your ancestors were and what they did is, of course, something which is common in all cultures. Not all cultures, however, have a phrase which translates as *family tree* for when they want to describe earlier generations of the same family. We use this particular phrase because it was traditional in the past in some countries to put the oldest generations at the top of a drawing and the youngest generation at the bottom – sometimes just the child of a recently married couple. This meant the image would be wider at the top and narrower at the bottom – just like a tree.

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. Some people choose to research their family tree because they are simply curious about their origins. Or perhaps they have heard an unusual story about an ancestor and wish to discover the truth. They may even have a more serious and useful purpose, for example wanting to find out about a medical condition which runs in the family.

1. The correct heading for **Paragraph B** is:

- A. Practical and personal reasons for finding out about ancestors
- B. The appeal of making unexpected discoveries
- C. The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research
- D. Why we use 'family tree' to refer to our family background
- E. Traditional ways of researching family trees

2. The correct heading for **Paragraph C** is:

- A. The appeal of making unexpected discoveries
- B. Practical and personal reasons for finding out about ancestors
- C. The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research
- D. Traditional ways of researching family trees
- E. Why we use 'family tree' to refer to our family background

Exercise 3: Read the options in **bold (ii, iii, v, vi and x)** from the list of headings and then read the paragraphs. Which heading should be used with each paragraph? Write the correct option numbers (**ii, iii, v, vi or x**).

i	The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research
ii	How technology has helped people research their ancestors
iii	How businesses benefit from the growing interest in family trees
iv	Practical and personal reasons for finding out about ancestors
v	How ancestors are remembered and celebrated in different countries
vi	Traditional ways of researching family trees
vii	Creating family trees for future generations
viii	How knowing your family tree could lead to power and property
ix	Why we say 'family tree' to refer to our family background
x	What people enjoy about making unexpected discoveries

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. 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.

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. 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..

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. Councils have uploaded many public records to their websites, including details of marriages, names of taxpayers and property owners, and the wills of people who have died. Many museums and libraries have also become involved, and offer guidance about the best tools and apps to use when searching for ancestors. One online company which helps people trace their ancestors was recently bought for over £2.4 billion – showing just how popular this method of research has become.

Paragraph G

Despite the advances of modern technology, it can still be a challenge to find your distant ancestors. Before the 11th century, a person would only sometimes share their parents' surname. This was because a surname usually showed the town or region where you came from, e.g. *John of Kent*, or your occupation, e.g. *John (the) Baker*. So, if a child was born in a different place to a parent or had a different job, they might have had different surnames. This system also meant that thousands of people had exactly the same surnames even when they were not related. For wealthy people, it would also have been possible to have two different surnames if they owned land or property in two different locations. Of course, many old records have also been lost or destroyed, too.

Paragraph H

Many people who are keen on producing a family tree are interested in looking forwards rather than back. They recognise their role as an ancestor of people who haven't even been born yet, and who may live in many different parts of the world. They want to create records for them – showing the different branches of the family today. 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.

Heading for Paragraph D _____

Heading for Paragraph E _____

Heading for Paragraph F _____

Heading for Paragraph G _____

Heading for Paragraph H _____