

Unit 5: Exercise 1

In this unit, you will do IELTS Reading matching heading tasks and read a text on the topic of family history (also called *ancestry*).

What vocabulary do you already know on the topic of ancestry? Match the words with their definitions.

a descendant	a generation	a record	a relative	a will	an ancestor
birth certificate	family background	great - + noun	run in the family		

1. a member of your extended family, for example, your aunt or uncle:

2. a person who is related to you but lived and died before you were born:

3. a person who is related to you and who will live after you in the future (e.g. your grandchildren's children): _____
4. a group of people who are all about the same age:

5. the history of your family, for example, where they came from, what jobs they had:

6. used with a word for a family member from an older generation (e.g. your mother's grandmother): _____
7. a piece of important information you write on paper or store on a computer:

8. a legal document that explains what a person has decided should be done with their money and property after they die: _____
9. a phrase that describes a feature, quality, ability or disease that people from the same family share: _____
10. a legal document that contains information about a new baby such as its name, the names of its parents and the time and place it was born:

Unit 5: Exercise 2

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**.

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

2. The correct heading for **Paragraph B** is:
 - o Practical and personal reasons for finding out about ancestors
 - o The appeal of making unexpected discoveries
 - o The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research
 - o Why we use 'family tree' to refer to our family background
 - o Traditional ways of researching family trees

3. The correct heading for **Paragraph C** is:
 - o The appeal of making unexpected discoveries
 - o Practical and personal reasons for finding out about ancestors
 - o The problems people face in carrying out family-tree research
 - o Traditional ways of researching family trees
 - o Why we use 'family tree' to refer to our family background