

MATCHING HEADINGS

The matching heading questions normally ask you to **match a list of headings to paragraphs**. The texts given can consist of six to nine paragraphs.

When you see this type of task, **you should**;

- Quickly read the headings and underline/highlight any keywords.
- Skim read the text - so you understand the overall meaning
- Read the first paragraph and see if any headings match up
- Choose the best heading for the paragraph (read again if needed)
- Repeat this strategy for every paragraph

This **strategy** above allows you to choose the heading appropriate for each paragraph by going through a process of elimination.

WHAT IS A HEADING?

A **paragraph heading** sums up the paragraph as a whole, not just parts of it. Try not to match up words in the heading with words you see in the paragraph, that could lead you to make an incorrect choice. The heading should **apply to all information** written about in the paragraph, not just parts of it.

When you look at the **heading** choices you may think that more than one could match up with different **paragraphs**, but you need to look closer to see which option is the best fit. You should take the time to **practice** matching headings to paragraphs, summing up the main idea, not just trying to match the words.

REVIEW AND STRATEGY

The **matching headings questions** are **common** in the IELTS Reading Test, therefore you should practice and **develop a strategy** for answering.

TIP 1: Read the instructions before you start reading the text. Make sure you understand the question.

TIP 2: Skim read each paragraph and get the main idea of each one.

TIP 3: Look at the headings and highlight any keywords you can see, then match them up if you see anything clear.

TIP 4: Choose your answers through an elimination process. Which ones do not fit? Which ones can you dismiss? Be attentive to synonyms and paraphrasing.