

What is Matching Headings in IELTS Reading?

Worksheet

In matching headings, you read each paragraph briefly and select the heading that best captures its central theme. Success depends on skimming key sentences and understanding topic sentences, not reading every word.

Questions

1. You read: 'The smartphone industry grew rapidly from 2005 to 2015. Apple, Samsung and competitors fought fiercely.' Best heading?
A) Smartphone Competition and Growth
B) History of Apple Inc.
C) Mobile Technology Limitations
D) How to Choose a Phone
2. What is the main rule for matching headings?
A) Choose the heading with most keywords
B) Match the heading to the main idea, not a detail
C) Always pick the longest heading
D) Skip unfamiliar vocabulary
3. Paragraph: 'New research shows regular exercise improves memory, mood and sleep quality. Doctors recommend 30 minutes daily.' Heading?
A) Types of Exercise
B) Benefits of Physical Activity
C) Memory Loss and Aging
D) Sleep Disorders in Adults
4. If unsure about a heading match, you should:
A) Guess immediately
B) Mark it and return later after other matches
C) Read the entire passage again
D) Choose based on the first sentence only
5. You read: 'Scientists have discovered a new species of deep-sea fish with bioluminescent organs. This breakthrough helps us understand ocean ecosystems.' Match heading: i) Ocean Life Discoveries ii) Fish Farming Techniques
6. Paragraph: 'The average temperature has risen 1.2°C over the past century. Glaciers are melting, sea levels are rising, and weather patterns are shifting.' Headings: i) Effects of Global Warming ii) Renewable Energy Solutions
7. Text: 'The company installed solar panels on the roof, reducing electricity costs by 40%. They also trained staff to conserve water and recycle paper.' Headings: i) Business Expansion ii) Sustainability Initiatives
8. Define: What is matching headings in IELTS reading?
9. Define: How many headings are usually provided?
10. Define: Key strategy for matching headings?

Answer Key

1. A) Smartphone Competition and Growth — The paragraph is about industry growth and competition — option 0 fits best.
2. B) Match the heading to the main idea, not a detail — The heading must fit the central theme, not just contain keywords. Tricky keywords mislead.
3. B) Benefits of Physical Activity — The paragraph lists benefits (memory, mood, sleep) — 'Benefits of Physical Activity' is the main idea.
4. B) Mark it and return later after other matches — Mark uncertain answers and come back — this helps narrow options.
5. Identify main idea: new species discovery and ocean understanding Heading i) 'Ocean Life Discoveries' captures this Heading ii) is about farming, not mentioned Answer: i)
6. Main idea: temperature rise and its effects Heading i) 'Effects of Global Warming' matches perfectly Heading ii) is unrelated Answer: i)
7. Main idea: eco-friendly practices Heading ii) 'Sustainability Initiatives' fits Heading i) is about growth, not mentioned Answer: ii)
8. A task where you select the best heading for each paragraph from a list, testing main-idea comprehension.
9. Typically 7–10 headings for 4–6 paragraphs, so some headings are not used.
10. Skim each paragraph for the main idea (first or last sentence), then match quickly.

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