

Reading practice: matching headings

The reading passage opposite has 5 paragraphs, A-E.

Choose the correct heading for paragraphs B-E from the list of headings below. Write the correct numbers i-viii in spaces 1-4 at the top of the page.

NB There are more headings than paragraphs, so you will not use them all.

List of headings

- i The quality of urban housing**
- ii Amenities in urban areas**
- iii The affordability of urban housing**
- iv The amenities that people want**
- v The urban-rural divide**
- vi The quality of rural infrastructure**
- vii Rural neighbourhoods in the city**
- viii Rural transport**

Example: **Paragraph A Answer: v**

- 1. Paragraph B**
- 2. Paragraph C**
- 3. Paragraph D**
- 4. Paragraph E**

The lure of the urban village

A

Many people dream of leaving the city and moving to the countryside, but in fact we are an overwhelmingly urban population. Over 80 percent of the UK residents now live in urban areas. Globally, it's much the same; according to the United Nations, by 2012, well over half of the world's population will be living in towns and cities.

B

Increasingly, people are living in towns, but what many really want is a piece of the countryside within the town. Three years ago a survey of 1,000 homeowners in the UK found that many of those who were planning to relocate wanted to live near gyms, shops and restaurants. Today, according to a more recent report, the majority want a crime-free neighbourhood, a back garden, and theatre or gallery within reach. The report concludes that Britons are becoming more concerned about their quality of life and are willing to prioritize tranquility over status and salary.

C

However, what the report does not say is that, for people without a high salary the chances of buying the ideal house, or indeed any house at all in the city, are becoming increasingly slim. According to recent figures, even if we take inflation into account, average urban house values are four times higher than they were 70 years ago. A comparison of average house prices and average incomes is even less favourable. Since 1940, home price rises have far exceeded rises in average salaries.

D

For those who can, moving to the countryside is an option. In most developed countries, the roads, power supply and communication facilities are adequate for their needs. Indeed, improvements in telecommunications make telecommuting an increasingly attractive proposition.

E

Those forced to stay behind in urban life are increasingly yearning for neighbourhoods that are "village" like in feel. Indeed those who market new homes are increasingly using such terms to attract buyers. Interestingly, the idea of urban villages is not a new one. The term was coined 50 years ago, by the American sociologist Herbert Gans in his study of the Italian-American communities of Boston. According to Gans, the communities he studied refashioned urban space in an attempt to recreate the intimate feel of the Southern Italian villages they came from. He argued that American cities as a whole could be seen as a patchwork of different villages in which non-urban immigrants attempted to shape the city to resemble the places in the old country that they had left behind. His findings may well resonate with today's native urbanites yearning for village life.

Source: *Collins_Vocabulary for IELTS*