

Creating Cohesion

Creating cohesion means giving the text 'flow' by 'tying' our words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs together, to create a text where the relationships between these elements are clear and logical to the reader. We create cohesion at all these levels (word, phrase, sentence and paragraph), in order to direct our readers' attention to the direction of our argument. There are many common cohesive words and phrases that we can use to do this, and these are listed on the opposite side of this page; but cohesion can also be created on the sentence level by using:

Repetition: in the second of any two sentences, repeat a word from the first sentence,
e.g. *The problem with contemporary art is that it is not easily understood by most people. Contemporary art is deliberately abstract, and that means it leaves the viewer wondering what she is looking at.*

Synonyms: use a word or phrase in the second sentence which has the same or similar meaning to a keyword in the first sentence,
e.g. *Myths narrate sacred histories and explain sacred origins. These traditional narratives are, in short, a set of beliefs that are a very real force in the lives of the people who tell them.*

Pronouns: use a pronoun to refer back to a phrase already used,
e.g. *When scientific experiments do not work out as expected, they are often considered failures until some other scientist tries them again. Those that work out better the second time around are the ones that promise the most rewards.*

Cohesive Words and Phrases

1. Additive words

Also, and, as well as, at the same time as, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, likewise, moreover, too, not only... but also.

2. Amplification words

As, for example, for instance, in fact, specifically, such as, that is, to illustrate

3. Repetitive words

Again, in other words, that is, to repeat

4. Contrast words

But, conversely, despite, even though, however, in contrast, notwithstanding, on the one hand / on the other hand, still, although, though, whereas, yet, nevertheless, on the contrary, in spite of this

5. Cause and effect words

Accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this reason, since, as, so, then, therefore, thus

6. Qualifying words

Although, if, even, therefore, unless

7. Example

For example, for instance



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8. Emphasising words

Above all, more/most importantly

9. Reason words

For this reason, owing to this, therefore

10. Order words

Afterwards, at the same time, before, firstly/secondly, formerly, lastly, finally, later, meanwhile, next, now, presently, today/yesterday/last week/next year, subsequently, then, until, ultimately, while, historically, in the end, eventually

11. Explanation

In other words, that is to say

12. Attitude

Naturally, of course, certainly, strangely enough, oddly enough, luckily, fortunately, unfortunately, admittedly, undoubtedly

13. Summary

Finally, in conclusion, in short, to sum up

Remember: Cohesive writing refers to the connection of your ideas both at the sentence level and at the paragraph level. **Cohesion** is a very important aspect of academic writing, because it immediately affects the tone of your writing. Here are some **examples** that illustrate the importance of connecting your ideas more effectively in writing:

Example of lack of cohesion:

The hotel is famous. It is one of the most well-known hotels in the country. The latest international dancing competition was held at the hotel. The hotel spent a lot of money to advertise the event. Because the hotel wanted to gain an international reputation. But not many people attended the event. (*The connection of ideas is not very good.*)

Example of cohesion employed:

The hotel, which is one of the most well-known hotels in this region, wanted to promote its image around the world by hosting the latest international dancing competition. Although the event was widely advertised, not many people participated in the competition. (*The connection of ideas is better than in the first example.*)

The latest international dancing competition was held at the hotel, which is one of the most well-known hotels in this region. The hotel spent a lot of money on advertising the event since it wanted to enhance its international reputation; however, it failed to attract many people. (*The connection of ideas is better than in the first example.*)

Adapted from: Young-Kyung Min, 2015. Coherence and cohesion. [ONLINE] Available at:

<http://www.bothell.washington.edu/wacc/for-students/eslhandbook/coherence>

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