

Cohesion

When the ideas within paragraphs link well together we say the paragraph has **cohesion**.

You can think of cohesion like glue holding the text together.

Cohesion:

- Keeps order in the paragraph.
- Related ideas are kept together.
- It makes it easier for the reader to understand the text.
- Ideas flow more smoothly.
- It provides links between ideas.

Creating Cohesion

- Connect ideas in separate sentences by using connecting adverbs. Connecting adverbs (and adverbial phrases and clauses) maintain the cohesion of a text in several ways, including:
 - **emphasis/addition** \pm furthermore, moreover, also
 - **opposition** \pm however, nevertheless, on the other hand, instead, in contrast, looking at it another way.
 - **reinforcing** \pm besides, anyway, after all
 - **explaining** \pm for example, in other words, that is to say
 - **listing** - first of all, finally
 - **indicating result** \pm therefore, consequently, as a result
 - **indicating time** \pm just then, meanwhile, later, after

Creating Cohesion

Connecting adverbs/adverbials can help to create cohesion within paragraphs. They join separate sentences together and ensure that ideas flow more smoothly. They are mobile and can be used in different places in sentences.

E.g.

The brown bear looks cuddly. **However**, he is not a friendly animal.

The brown bear looks cuddly. He is not, **however**, a friendly animal.

'However' connects the ideas in the two separate sentences.

Spot connecting adverbs!

Commas are often used to mark off connecting adverbs/adverbials. Can you spot the connecting adverbs / adverbials in these sentences?

First of all, I want to welcome you to the meeting.

I didn't think much of the film. Helen, on the other hand, enjoyed it.

I was upset. However, I didn't say anything.

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Creating Cohesion - Repetition

Repeating a key word or phrase helps the reader to hook onto the topic thread and re-affirms what the important information is.

Can you see how repetition is used in these short paragraphs?

Jasper looked up at the sky and a sense of panic began to set in. It would soon be dark and he was not home. The streetlamps flickered above his head, threatening to light; the darkness was looming menacingly.

Only yesterday he had promised to avoid the blackness of night. Only yesterday he had promised to never get caught. Yet here he was, out in the street with the blackness poised ready to envelop him.

It arrived. The promise was broken and Jasper felt the changes begin

Creating Cohesion - Order and Relevance

A cohesive text is ordered effectively and its points are clear and relevant

It is important to re-read your paragraphs carefully to check for cohesion.

Consider:

Are the sentences/paragraphs presented in the best order or could they be switched around to create a better flow? Do related points follow each other?

Are your paragraphs relevant and clear or does it jump around too much? Remember you don't want your reader to become distracted or confused.

Creating Cohesion - Ellipsis

Ellipsis is leaving out words or phrases which are expected or predictable.

The ellipsis (. . .) shows that words have deliberately been left out of a text and can be used to create mystery, suspense or a trailing thought.

However an ellipsis does not always use the . . .
E.g. Sarah had been feeling very unsettled recently but she didn't know why she had been feeling very unsettled.

The ellipsis in this sentence comes after why.

Many ellipses have ... as a substitute for the omitted words. We don't need to add k in this ellipsis, as the meaning is still clear and the missing words are very obvious.

By using ellipses in this way within and across paragraphs, repetition and unnecessary information can be avoided, which makes the writing clearer and more succinct.