

Text cohesion

Text cohesion can be seen as the 'glue' that brings sentences together.

There are two main types of text cohesion:

1. Lexical cohesion

'lexical' relates to words and the choice of vocabulary in a text. lexical cohesion is the way words (and the choice of vocabulary) are used to create a cohesion in a text.

There are 4 types of lexical Cohesion:

Repetition cohesion

- This involves the repetition of key words (or related words) to help create cohesion in a text.
- It creates cohesion in the text and clarifies that the main
- This helps to focus your ideas and to keep your reader on track.

Example:

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.

Synonymy cohesion:

- where words have similar meanings.
- some synonyms may not have the exact same meaning
- The words murder, and kill are synonymous. To murder someone involves intention, while you can kill someone by accident. While murder and kill are slightly different in meaning, they are still similar enough for us to recognise that they mean more or less the same thing (i.e.) someone ends up dead.
- Synonyms are words that have essentially the same meaning, and they provide some variety in your word choices, helping the reader to stay focused on the idea being discussed.

Example:

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.

Antonymy cohesion:

- Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings.
- Antonyms share some semantic features, for example 'bride' and 'groom' share a meaning in the sense that both are involved in a wedding ceremony by sharing some semantic features they create cohesion in a text
- Antonymy has been used to convey different meanings in the text.

Example:

A phone call to your mother will make her **Happy** when she's **sad**

Collocation Cohesion:

- Collocation is a term to describe words which tend to occur together in certain contexts, for example, the words education, classroom, lesson and teacher would most probably occur in a text about teaching
- Note that noun-verb pairs may also form collocations, for example, to prepare a lesson or to write an assignment
- Collocation to establish the context of the text
- A collocation is two or more words that often go together. These combinations just sound "right" to native English speakers, who use them all the time

Example:

You might still be hazy on the latest anti-tobacco **legislation**, but it's been **passed** and is steadily being **enforced**. Get used to **obeying** the **law**: the **penalties** are no joke.

2. Grammatical cohesion

Refers to the use of grammatical elements to tie a text together.

Reference Cohesion:

- There are particular words that are often used for reference purposes. Let us have a look at some of these words
- Personal pronoun reference: I; you (singular); he; she; one; we; you (plural); they
- References can also occur in different forms. Here are some possible variants: me; him; her; us; the; there; it.

Example:

You can't see **Theo** now. **He** is in a meeting.

Substitution:

- This refers to situations where one word is substituted for another word to avoid direct repetition
- Substitution is used to make our sentence clearer, easier to read and more coherent

Example:

I want to buy a new **handbag** and I have my eye on that gorgeous green leather **one**.

Ellipsis:

- Ellipsis is very similar to substitution, however, whereas with substitution we swap elements in a sentence that are the same, with ellipsis we omit elements altogether
- Ellipsis often involves omitting elements to avoid redundancy.

Example:

There are our two cats. We used to have three

(The word 'cats' is omitted because it can be easily understood that the 'three' refers to cats)

Conjunction:

- The term conjunction means "joining".
- Thus conjunctive cohesion refers to the use of linking words to not only link sentences but to also demonstrate how the items should be linked.

Conjunctions:

for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so

A: after, although, as, as if, as long as, as much as, as soon as, as though

B: because, before, by the time

E: even if, even though

I: if, in order that, in case

L: lest

O: once, only if

P: provided that

S: since, so that

T: than, that, though, till U: unless, until

W: when, whenever, where, wherever, while

Firstly, Secondly, Thirdly

Example:

Firstly we should send out the invitations **because** we are running out of time

Coherence

- Coherence simply means that you, the reader or listener, can understand the text
- Coherence is how the sentences and meanings of ideas relate to each other logically
- Which is different to Cohesion. Cohesion can be thought of as how all the grammatical and lexical elements of a text link one part of a text to another