

PARAGRAPH COHERENCE 1

Coherence is achieved when sentences and ideas are connected and flow together smoothly. An essay without coherence can inhibit a reader's ability to understand the ideas and main points of the essay. Coherence allows the reader to move easily throughout the essay from one idea to the next, from one sentence to the next, and from one paragraph to the next. Following are several methods that can be used to achieve coherence in writing:

1 : DIRECT REFERENCES :

The most natural way to achieve coherence in a paragraph is by using direct references. Direct references link sentences by referring the reader to a noun or an idea mentioned earlier.

a. Use Repetition to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs

Repeating key words or phrases helps connect and focus idea(s) throughout the essay. Repetition also helps the reader remain focused and headed in the right direction.

Example: Most students are intimidated by the works of **William Shakespeare**. They believe **Shakespeare's** sonnets and plays are far too complicated to read and understand.

None of us recognized the Young **actor** who played the part of Tony. The **actor** could sing and dance well but apparently had never become famous

Gold

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, it has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. It never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. Another of its important characteristics is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. Its most recent use is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear heat shields made from it for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. In conclusion, it is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

Repetition of Key Nouns

The easiest way to achieve coherence is to repeat key nouns frequently in your paragraph. Read the model paragraph about gold to see how it uses this technique to smooth the flow of sentences. The key noun in this paragraph is *gold*. Circle the word *gold* and all pronouns that refer to it.

MODEL

Paragraph with Coherence

Gold

¹Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. ²First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. ³Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. ⁴Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. ⁵For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. ⁶Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. ⁷For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. ⁸The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. ⁹Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. ¹⁰In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

- A. In the following paragraph, the key noun is never repeated. Replace the pronoun *it* with the key noun *English* wherever you think doing so would make the paragraph more coherent.

English

¹English has almost become an international language. ²Except for Chinese, more people speak it than any other language. ³Spanish is the official language of more countries in the world, but more countries have it as their official or unofficial second language. ⁴More than 70 percent of the world's mail is written in it. ⁵It is the primary language on the Internet. ⁶In international business, it is used more than any other language, and it is the language of airline pilots and air traffic controllers all over the world. ⁷Moreover, although French used to be the language of diplomacy, it has displaced it throughout the world. ⁸Therefore, unless you plan to spend your life alone on a desert island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it is a useful language to know.

- B. In the following passage about dolphins, replace some of the pronouns with appropriate singular or plural nouns.

Dolphins

¹Dolphins are interesting because they display almost human behavior at times. ²For example, they display the human emotions of joy and sadness. ³During training, when they do something correctly, they squeal excitedly and race toward their trainer. ⁴When they make a mistake, however, they droop¹ noticeably and mope² around their pool. ⁵Furthermore, they help each other when they are in trouble. ⁶If one is sick, it sends out a message, and others in the area swim to help it. ⁷They push it to the surface of the water so that it can breathe. ⁸They stay with it for days or weeks until it recovers or dies. ⁹They have also helped trapped or lost whales navigate their way safely out to the open sea. ¹⁰They are so intelligent and helpful, in fact, that the U.S. Navy is training them to become underwater bomb disposal experts.

b. Use Pronouns to Link Sentences

Pronouns are used to link or connect sentences by referring to preceding nouns and pronouns. Pronouns can also help create paragraphs that are easy to read by eliminating wordiness and unnecessary repetition.

Example: Mr. Thompson agreed to meet with members of the worker's union before **he** signed the contract. **He** was interested in hearing **their** concerns about the new insurance plan.

Eva spent Saturday cleaning out the garage. This did not seem to her to be a proper use of the Holiday, but it had to be done.

Consistent Pronouns

When you use pronouns, make sure that you use the same person and number throughout your paragraph. Don't change from *you* to *he* or *she* (change of person) or from *he* to *they* (change of number). Notice the changes the writer made for consistency in the following example.

Students know a few Latin and Greek roots and prefixes have an advantage over a student who does not know them. They can often guess the meaning of new words. If, for example, you know that the prefix *omni* means "all," they have a better chance of guessing the meanings of words such as *omnibus*, *omnipresent*, and *omnidirectional*. Furthermore, a student who knows that the root *sci-* comes from *scire*, "to know," can guess that *omniscient* means "all-knowing."

PRACTICE 4**Using Consistent Pronouns**

In the following paragraph, the pronouns are not consistent. Correct them to make this paragraph more coherent.

Olympic Athletes

Olympic athletes must be strong both physically and mentally. First of all, if you hope to compete in an Olympic sport, you must be physically strong. Furthermore, aspiring⁴ Olympians must train rigorously⁵ for many years. For the most demanding sports, they train several hours a day, five or six days a week, for ten or more years. In addition to being physically strong, athletes must also be mentally tough. This means that you have to be totally dedicated to your sport, often giving up a normal school, family, and social life. Being mentally strong also means that he or she must be able to withstand the intense pressure of international competition with its accompanying media⁶ coverage. Finally, not everyone can win a medal, so Olympians must possess the inner strength to live with defeat.

c. Use Synonyms to Link Ideas and Create Variety

Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. They provide alternative word choices that can add variety to an essay and can help eliminate unnecessary repetition.

Example: **Teenagers** face an enormous amount of peer pressure from friends and schoolmates. As a result, many **young adults** are exhibiting signs of severe stress or depression at an early age.

2. USE PARALLEL STRUCTURES TO LINK IDEAS, SENTENCES, AND PARAGRAPHS

Parallelism is the use of matching words, phrases, clauses, or sentence structures to express similar ideas. Parallel structures allow the reader to flow smoothly from one idea, sentence, or paragraph to the next and to understand the relationships and connections between ideas.

Example: Usually, the children spend the summer weekends **playing** ball in park, **swimming** in the neighbor's pool, **eating** ice cream under the tree, or **camping** in the backyard.

At the museum, the class **attended a lecture where the speaker demonstrated** how the Native Americans made bows and arrows. They also **attended a lecture where a sword smith demonstrated** how the Vikings crafted swords.

3. USE TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSIONS TO LINK IDEAS, SENTENCES, AND PARAGRAPHS

Transitional expressions, such as *however*, *because*, *therefore*, and *in addition*, are used to establish relationships between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs. They serve as signals to let the reader know the previous idea, sentence, or paragraph is connected to what follows. For a list of the most commonly used transitional expressions, refer to the Southeastern Writing Center's handout *Useful Transitional Words and Phrases*.

Example: Many students believe they cannot write a good essay **because** they are not writers.

However, as they practice writing and work on developing their writing skills, most students are able to gain the needed confidence to start thinking of themselves writers.

Compare paragraphs 1 and 2 that follow. Which paragraph contains transition signals and is more coherent? Circle all the transition signals you can identify.

Paragraph 1

One difference among the world's seas and oceans is that the salinity⁷ varies in different climate zones. The Baltic Sea in northern Europe is only one-fourth as salty as the Red Sea in the Middle East. There are reasons for this. In warm climates, water evaporates⁸ rapidly. The concentration⁹ of salt is greater. The surrounding land is dry and does not contribute much freshwater to dilute¹⁰ the salty seawater. In cold climate zones, water evaporates slowly. The runoff created by melting snow adds a considerable amount of freshwater to dilute the saline seawater.

Paragraph 2

One difference among the world's seas and oceans is that the salinity varies in different climate zones. For example, the Baltic Sea in northern Europe is only one-fourth as saline as the Red Sea in the Middle East. There are two reasons for this. First of all, in warm climate zones, water evaporates rapidly; therefore, the concentration of salt is greater. Second, the surrounding land is dry; consequently, it does not contribute much freshwater to dilute the salty seawater. In cold climate zones, on the other hand, water evaporates slowly. Furthermore, the runoff created by melting snow adds a considerable amount of freshwater to dilute the saline seawater.

type of linker	examples	broad meaning	example
cause and effect	because, so, accordingly, thus, consequently, hence, therefore, as	introduces a reason and shows result	We had to wait <i>because</i> , it was raining.
comparison	similarly, likewise, whereas, but, on the other hand, except, by comparison, when compared to, equally, in the same way	identifies similarities between two ideas	Life is difficult in extreme polls; <i>similarly</i> , it is horrible near the Equatorial regions.
contrast	but, however, yet, still, even though, nevertheless, on the other hand, otherwise, after all, for all of that, on the contrary, notwithstanding, in contrast,	identifies differences between two ideas	Raj did not perform well in the exam; <i>nevertheless</i> , he got a distinction in English.

	unlike, whereas, instead of, alternatively, although		
time	at once, immediately, meanwhile, at length, in the meantime, at the same time, in the end, when, then, as, before that, after that	indicates time and frequency of events	The bell rang and the students left <i>immediately</i> .
addition	and, also, even, again, moreover, further, furthermore, similarly, in addition, as well as	adds ideas in support of the main idea	It is very hot today; <i>moreover</i> , there is a power outage.
example	for example, such as, for instance, in this case, in another case, on this occasion, in this situation, in this manner, to illustrate	introduces illustrations in support of the main idea	I think he is very rich; <i>for example</i> , he gave a hundred rupee note to a beggar.
sequence	first, second, third, next, then, following, now, at this point, after, after this, subsequently, eventually, finally, previously	shows the importance of the ideas by listing according to the priority	There is a students' procession today; <i>therefore</i> , they diverted the traffic.
summary	in brief, on the whole, in sum, to sum up, thus	draws conclusion by summarizing the ideas	It is a love story, the actors performed well, the direction is excellent, the settings are beautiful; <i>in brief</i> , it is a good film.

1. Fill in the blanks within the sentence with the transition words listed below. Use each choice once.

for example, furthermore, just as, type, even though, when, so, between

- _____ Chloe is afraid of heights, she went bungee jumping to celebrate her birthday.
- Distance education is Learning that takes place when the student is in a location apart from the classroom, building, or site; _____, online courses and telecourses are distance learning courses.
- Isabella wanted to become a professional actress, _____ she moved to New York City.
- Jealousy destroys a friendship _____ thoroughly as a wildfire consumes a forest.
- The best course of action to take _____ one has made a mistake is to admit it, learn from it, and avoid making it again.
- Pilates develops a strong and supple spine by extending the space _____ each vertebra.
- Research has shown that cancers of the lip, tongue, mouth, throat, larynx, lung, and esophagus are connected to cigar smoking. _____, facts strongly suggest a link between cigar smoking and cancer of the pancreas.
- During an episode of activity, a volcano commonly displays a distinctive pattern or _____ of behavior.

2. Fill in each blank with a transition from the box. Use each transition only once. Then tell what pattern of organization is used.

after finally first second third

Steps to Stop Sexual Harassment

Sexual harassment is defined as any form of unwanted sexual attention. Most companies now have sexually harassment policies in place. If you feel you are being sexually harassed, there are several steps you can take. (1) _____, ask the harasser to stop. Be clear and direct. This may be the first time the person has ever been told such behavior is wrong. (2) _____, record the event. Having a record of exactly what occurred (and when and where) will be helpful in making your

case. (3) _____, complain to a higher authority. Talk to your manager about what happened. (4) _____, remember that you have not done anything wrong. You will likely feel awful (5) _____ being harassed. However, you should feel proud that you are not keeping silent.

3. Circle the best transitions from the choices in parentheses. Be prepared to explain your answers. Pay attention to punctuation in addition to meaning.

1. I would like to see you tomorrow, (so/ however/ again) let's have lunch together.
2. My sister loves to eat, (finally/ moreover/ but) I don't care much about food.
3. That restaurant is awful. Yesterday, (and/ for example/ however), I found a bug in my soup. 4. She felt exhausted; (therefore/ nevertheless/ whereas), she took a nap.
5. He expected to do well on the test, (and then/ in brief/ for) he had studied diligently.
6. John eats five big meals a day; (as a result/ despite this/ hence), he never gains weight.
7. Josephine ate too fast. (Consequently/ Likewise/ In contrast), she had indigestion.
8. I was watching the game; (furthermore/ meanwhile/ first), the soup boiled over.
9. The music's too loud. (Besides/ In fact/ Although), it's making the windows rattle.
10. This morning, I will be in Dayton. (In effect/ Above all/ Later), I will be in Xenia.
11. I like to read; unfortunately, (so/ soon/ though), I hardly have any time to read for fun.
12. Before I wrote the research paper, I read five books; (in addition/ on the contrary/ yet), I scanned seven magazine articles and interviewed two experts on the topic.
13. First, Hank went to the store; (even though/ then/ third), he visited his sister for an hour. 14. (Obviously/ Because/ As proof), these pants are too long; (instead/ for/ thus), they will need to be altered before I can wear them.
15. Please, don't forget the cat food and juice. (Nevertheless/ Furthermore/ For instance), bring the paper plates, napkins, and cups for the picnic.
16. I enjoy learning; (to conclude/ in a way/ most of all), I like to learn new facts about nature.
17. Barbara, (without a doubt/ yet/ plus), is the best student in the class.
18. He concluded like this: "(Soon/ Next/ To sum up), there's no business like show business."
- 19.. I hate intolerance; (still/ that is/ to repeat), I try not to become bitter when I see it.
20. She had looked for a job for months. (Formerly/ Finally/ Before), she found one.

4. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate transitions

Perth is a nice place to live for many reasons including the fantastic summer weather and the beaches and parks. _____, there are a lot of pubs, clubs, restaurants and cafes to enjoy. _____, there is not much to do in winter when it is cold and rainy and not much fun to do outdoor activities. _____, if you are planning to visit Perth, it is best to come between November and April which is the hottest time.

5. Add the appropriate transitions to make the paragraph coherent

The concept of fairness is central to understanding plagiarism. Fairness means being fair both to yourself and others. Everybody both gives and receives their proper due, and nobody has anything to complain about. An incident involving unfairness could be taking someone else's work and passing it off as your own. The person whose work has been taken receives no recognition or acknowledgment for their research and thinking. Writers who plagiarize are not being fair to themselves either because they are not developing their own independent academic skills. Students who do their own work with due acknowledgement of the work of others should develop their own academic skills and self-confidence far more than those who merely misuse the work of others.

PARAGRAPH COHERENCE 2

Logical order :

When ideas are presented in a logical order, the reader can easily follow the ideas from one sentence to the next. Three types of logical order that may be used in a paragraph are : chronological order, spatial order, and order of importance

Chronological order :

Arranging the events in a story in the order in which they happened

Explaining the process : the steps in the process should be arranged in the order in which they must be carried

After	as soon as	at last
After that	at first	at the same time
Before	finally	now
Before long	first (second...etc)	soon
earlier	next	then
during		

Practice : process

1.The order of the paragraph should be

- a. For the command "Sit," hold the leash in your right hand and gently press on the dog's hindquarters with your left hand.
- b. At the same time, say "Sit."
- c. Repeat this process, moving farther away from the dog each time. . .
- d. When your dog will sit on command without having to be pushed, he or she is ready to learn "Stay."
- e. When he or she is in the correct position, stroke and praise your dog.
- f. If the dog tries to follow, you say "No" firmly and repeat the word "Stay."
- g. Move a couple of feet in front of the dog, still holding on to the leash.

2.The order of the paragraph should be

- a. Next, make sure there is fresh water nearby before pitching the tent.
- b. Finally, collect rocks to enclose the fire and sticks to start the fire for supper.
- c. The construction of a comfortable campsite involves some important steps.
- d. First, select a level place that is relatively free of underbrush so a fire can be safely started.

Practice: order of events

1. The order of sentences should be :

- a. Leonardo spent years sketching a great charger, eventually sculpting a full-sized model in clay and leaving notes about how to cast it—the bronze would weigh eighty tons!
- b. Made to honor the duke's father, it was to be twenty-four feet high.
- c. For more than four centuries it was lost to history until Leonardo's sketches were rediscovered in Spain in 1966.
- d. But then the French army threatened and the metal was needed for cannon.
- e. In 1482, the duke of Milan commissioned Leonardo da Vinci to create the biggest horse statue ever.
- f. When Milan fell to the French in 1499, French archers used the clay horse for target practice.

2.The order of sentences should be:

- a. One of the most exciting games of the season took place last night.
- b. When the halftime buzzer sounded, the Tigers led the Blue Jays by ten points.
- c. However, the Blue Jays, full of fire, returned from the locker room and quickly closed the gap.
- d. During the first half, the Tigers controlled the ball and the boards.
- e. No one expected the game to end in a tie, so the fans went wild when the final buzzer sounded.

Order of importance:

Arranging supporting details according to their order of importance.

Practice 1 :

1. But the city's population rise came about mainly because the railroads carried the promise of Paris to rural France .
2. Three factors contributed to the population explosion in Paris from 1851 to 1872 , when the number of Parisians nearly doubled---from 1,242,000 to 2,212,000 .
3. The increase was also due in part to the general peace and prosperity of the Second Empire .
4. The increase was the result partly of better health conditions

Practice 2 :

1. First , they contribute to the health of their owners .Often they demand walks and play improve their owner’s exercise routine . Also , they enhance health simply by being around to be petted .
2. Keeping dogs as pets has more benefits than most people recognize.
3. Second , they provide a means for parents to teach their children responsibility When parents give children a dog , they provide them the opportunity to fulfill the responsibility of walking , feeding and caring for its other needs
4. In brief, although dogs cause their owners trouble and expense, these animals may at the same time return unrealized.
5. Finally and most important of all , dogs enhance the well-being and emotional stability of families .Older people who live alone especially rely on dogs to give them enjoyment and company .Children also find a great deal of comfort in their dogs .

Spatial order : is often used in descriptive paragraphs because it helps the reader visualize the subject.

Above	Before	In a corner	Outside
Across	Behind	In back of	Over
Against	Below	In front of	To the side
Ahead	Beside	Inside	Toward
Alongside	Between	In the middle	Under
Around	Beyond	On	Underneath

Practice : list the words and phrases that indicate spatial order

The farmhouse stood in the middle of a very large yard, and the yard was fenced on three sides with rails on the rear side with high palings. Against these stood the smoke house ; beyond the palings was the orchard ;beyond the orchard were the Tobacco fields. The front yard was entered over a stile made of sawed-off logs of graduated heights. In a corner of the front yard were a dozen lofty hickory trees and a dozen black walnuts, and in the nutting season riches were to be gathered there.

My apartment is so small that it will no longer hold all of my possessions. Every day when I come home from school, I am shocked by the clutter. The wall to my immediate left is completely obscured by art and movie posters that have become so numerous they often overlap, hiding even each other. Along the adjoining wall is my sound system: CDs and tapes are stacked several feet high on two long tables. The big couch that runs across the back of the room is always piled so high with schoolbooks and magazines that a guest usually ends up sitting on the floor. To my right is a large sliding glass door that opens onto a balcony at least it used to, before it was permanently blocked by my tennis gear, golf clubs, and ten speed bike. Even the tiny closet next to the front door is burst- ing with clothes both clean and dirty. I think the time has come for me to move.

Practice :Indicate the kind of order you would use for each of the following topics. Then write a paragraph about a topic of your choice

- Your happiest moment
- Your school at the first day of the school year
- What would happen in your perfect day
- How to make your favorite dish
- Your newly decorated room
- Why you should not miss class

PARAGRAPH UNITY

A paragraph in which all the sentences are directly related to the idea has unity any sentence that does not relate to the main idea as it is expressed in the topic sentence should be omitted. Such sentences make the writer's ideas difficult to follow.

Practice: In each of the following paragraphs, identify the sentence (es) that destroy unity

¹I never know what to do with my hands when I am in an awkward situation. ²For instance, when I am making an oral report, sometimes I self consciously clasp my hands behind me so that they won't show. ³At other times, I hide them in my pockets and start jingling coins noisily. ⁴A good speaker does not have distracting mannerisms such as saying "uh" at every pause, pacing back and forth, or looking out the window instead of at the audience. ⁵I can understand why Napoleon, the emperor of France, kept one hand safely buried inside his coat.

¹ There are many types of pets in an average household. ² People will often even choose pets according to their personalities. ³ Some people like small dogs that are easy to take care of and do not demand a lot of attention. ⁴ Some owners prefer strong or vicious dogs, like bulldogs for example. ⁵ Other people might like cats because they are independent and really need no attention at all. ⁶ Birds provide people with a lot of company, if you like bird songs, but their cages need a lot of cleaning. ⁷ A fish tank is great to look at but the tanks must be cleaned often as well. ⁸ Some people even treat their plants like pets and talk to them. ⁹ In a zoo, large animals, like polar bears, are left to themselves in their cages.

¹ It is true that we like to wonder about the world around us, and this is what Thomas writes about. ² He contrasts things as great as the planet Earth with bacteria. ³ He clearly thinks we need to be more careful about our environment; if we don't, we are threatening our future. ⁴ Even a casual dinner party will sometimes find people talking about very scientific things like a virus or beetle. ⁵ I had a pet dog that died after a virus attack of some kind. ⁶ All children grow old and are different from one another because of genetics. That's the way it is.

¹ Holding a part-time job can be an asset to students. ² First of all, students gain valuable experience about the everyday work world. ³ They learn how to interact with employers, coworkers, and customers, and they also get a sense of how businesses operate. ⁴ By the same token, if students develop cynical attitudes toward their first job, they may forever resent working. ⁵ Working makes students feel that they matter. ⁶ They usually have greater opportunity to help others—employers or customers—at the workplace than at home or school. ⁷ Most importantly, holding a job heightens responsibility and confidence. ⁸ Confronted by the demands of both school and job, students learn how to budget their time effectively; they also take more pride in fulfilling both academic and occupational tasks. ⁹ Of course, if students work too many hours, their grades suffer, and they become dissatisfied with their performances both at work and at school.

(1) As you use your calendar to manage your time, think about how long certain activities will take. **(2)** A common mistake is to underestimate the time needed to do something, even something simple. **(3)** For example, when you are planning the time needed to get cash from the cash machine, remember that there may be a line of people. **(4)** Last week in line I met a woman I went to high school with, so we chatted. **(5)** It turns out she has two children just the same age as mine. **(6)** When you are estimating time for a more complex activity, such as reading a chapter in a textbook, block out more time than you think you will need. **(7)** If you finish in less time than you have allotted, so much the better. **(8)** One should allow for interruptions because it is better to allow too much time than too little.