

## COHESIVE DEVICES

Writers use transitional words and phrases to achieve a clear, logical flow of thought from sentence to sentence and from paragraph to paragraph. Listed below are some of the techniques that help the reader follow the writer's train of thought.

### 1. USE THE SAME SUBJECT IN SUCCESSIVE SENTENCES

This does not mean that you should begin each sentence with the same word or phrase, because this will only get repetitive; be sure to vary your sentence structure. When possible, also avoid repeating the same words incessantly. Use synonyms (see below).

- Example: **Slum clearance** is one of the solutions to the problems no faces by large cities. Although it is not the total answer, **slum clearance** is a necessary first step.

### 2. REPEAT OR USE A SYNONYM OF SOME KEY WORD OR PHRASE FROM THE PREVIOUS SENTENCE

Again, avoid repeating the same words constantly if you can. Synonyms are an excellent alternative. Simply be careful when choosing a synonym, because there may be slight variations in meaning.

- Example: The liberally educated man is not afraid of change because he has knocked down the prison walls and is ready for a life of **learning**. We may be on our way to a **learning**, instead of a working, society.
- Example: One of the solutions to the problems that large cities now face is **slum clearance**. Although it is not the total answer, **rehabilitation of blighted areas** is a necessary first step.

### 3. USE A PRONOUN REFERENCE

Instead of repeating the same nouns, replace them with pronouns. Take special care, however when using pronouns as transitions. The pronoun must be as close as possible to the noun or nouns to which it refers or the reference will be ambiguous or unclear.

- Example: Medical researchers seek new discoveries in the treatment of human disease by **experimenting on animals**. **This practice** is called inhumane by antivivisectionists.
- Example: Most **doctors** defend vivisection. **They** claim that the practice is necessary if medicine is to make inroads upon human disease.

### 4. USE PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION IN SUCCESSIVE SENTENCES

Occasionally use similar sentence structures to show that sentences relate to each other.

- Example: If we win, we will have found our victory. If we lose, we will have deserved our defeat.

## 5. USE ENUMERATIVE DEVICES

If you are listing or writing about something that happens in chronological order, it can be helpful to number items or events, like in the example below.

- Example: Our dean has two remarkable traits. **First**, he never made decisions without examining alternatives. **Second**, he is on friendly terms with his entire faculty.

## 6. USE A TRANSITIONAL WORD OR PHRASE TO INDICATE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN IDEAS

Transitions are the bridges between what has been read and what will be read. Without transitions, paragraphs and entire essays can become disjointed and hard to follow. Therefore, transitions need to connect both sentences and whole paragraphs.

- Here are some commonly used transitions:

Also	First	Next
Although	For example	Nevertheless
And	Furthermore	Second
Besides	However	Similarly
But	If	Since
Consequently	In fact	Therefore
Finally	Likewise	Thus

- Example: **As** we move from small to large animals, from mice to elephants or small lizards to Komodo dragons, brain size increases, **but** not so fast as body size. **In other words**, bodies grow faster than brains, **and** large animals have low ratios of brain weight to body weight.

## 7. REFERENCE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPH AND RELATE IT TO THE IDEA THAT IS TO FOLLOW IN A NEW PARAGRAPH

- Example: **In the midst of these hardships and persecutions**, the powerful Brigham Young led his people on to the new Zion.

In the example above, one can assume that the preceding paragraph discussed the hardships that the Mormons faced. By saying something about the previous paragraph at the start of the new paragraph helps the reader follow your train of thought.