

What is Text Coherence and Cohesion?

Worksheet

Coherence is the overall logical flow and meaning of a text; cohesion is the use of linking words (aussi, cependant, donc) and pronouns to connect ideas between sentences.

Questions

1. Which device makes sentences cohesive?

- A) Using donc, car, or mais to link ideas
- B) Writing long sentences
- C) Repeating the same word
- D) Using complex grammar

2. A text with poor coherence has...

- A) missing cohesive devices
- B) ideas that lack logical connection
- C) long, complex sentences
- D) difficult vocabulary

3. Which pronoun is a cohesive device?

- A) mon
- B) elle
- C) très
- D) bien

4. Coherence without cohesion means...

- A) logical ideas but few linking words
- B) linked sentences with no clear meaning
- C) perfect writing
- D) no connecting devices at all

5. Two sentences: 'Marie aime lire.' 'Elle emprunte des livres chaque semaine.' How are they cohesive?

6. Make these coherent: 'Il pleut.' 'Je reste à la maison.'

7. Why is this incoherent: 'J'aime le français. Les girafes sont grandes. J'habite à Paris.'?

8. Define: What is text coherence?

9. Define: What is cohesion?

10. Define: Examples of cohesive devices in French?

Answer Key

1. A) Using donc, car, or mais to link ideas — Cohesion is created by linking words, pronouns, and repetition to connect ideas.
2. B) ideas that lack logical connection — Coherence is about logical flow; even with linking words, random ideas = poor coherence.
3. B) elle — 'elle' refers to a previously mentioned person — it links sentences and creates cohesion.
4. A) logical ideas but few linking words — A text can be logically sound but not explicitly link every sentence.
5. The pronoun 'Elle' refers back to 'Marie' (cohesive device). The topic (reading) is consistent (coherence). Together they form a clear, related sequence.
6. Add a cohesive link: 'Il pleut, donc je reste à la maison.' 'donc' (therefore) shows the cause-effect relation. Now the reader sees the logical connection.
7. No cohesive devices link the sentences. The three ideas jump randomly (food, animals, location). There's no overarching topic or logical progression.
8. The overall logical flow and meaning of a text — ideas are related and progress smoothly.
9. The use of linking words, pronouns, and repetition to connect sentences together.
10. Linking words (donc, car, mais, ensuite), pronouns (il, elle, on), and synonyms.

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