

What is Cohesion and Coherence in Writing?

Worksheet

Cohesion is achieved through connectives (however, therefore, in addition) and reference; coherence is built through clear paragraph structure, topic sentences and logical progression of ideas. Both are separate IELTS scoring criteria worth up to 25% of your Writing band.

Questions

1. Which best describes cohesion?

- A) The logical order of paragraphs
- B) Connecting ideas using linking words and reference
- C) The clarity of your main argument
- D) Using simple sentences

2. Which sentence is more coherent?

- A) Climate change exists. Oceans warm. Polar bears suffer.
- B) Climate change causes ocean warming, which threatens polar bears' survival.
- C) Polar bears are animals. Oceans are water. Climate change happens.

3. What should a topic sentence do?

- A) Repeat the essay title
- B) Introduce the main idea of the paragraph
- C) Use as many linking words as possible
- D) Provide examples

4. Which linking word shows consequence?

- A) Although
- B) Therefore
- C) Nevertheless
- D) Furthermore

5. Weak: Climate change is serious. Temperatures rise. Glaciers melt. We must act.

6. Weak: Young people use social media. It affects their mental health. Some benefits exist.

7. Weak: Education is important. Teachers influence students. Schools need funding.

8. Define: What is cohesion in IELTS writing?

9. Define: What is coherence in IELTS writing?

10. Define: Can you have cohesion without coherence?

Answer Key

1. B) Connecting ideas using linking words and reference — Cohesion is achieved through connectives and pronouns that link sentences.
2. B) Climate change causes ocean warming, which threatens polar bears' survival. — The second combines ideas logically, showing cause-and-effect and consequence.
3. B) Introduce the main idea of the paragraph — A clear topic sentence aids coherence by signposting the paragraph's purpose.
4. B) Therefore — Therefore indicates result/consequence; Although = concession, Furthermore = addition.
5. Problem: No linking words. Sentences feel disconnected. Improved: Climate change is serious; moreover, rising temperatures cause glaciers to melt. Therefore, action is urgent. Fix: 'Moreover' + 'cause,' + 'Therefore' = flow + logic.
6. Problem: Contradicts itself; reader unsure of stance. Improved: While social media offers connectivity, it negatively impacts youth mental health through sleep disruption and social comparison. However, moderated use provides educational value. Fix: 'While' concedes, main idea clear; 'However' balances.
7. Problem: Ideas connected but not a clear argument. Improved: Education shapes futures. Teachers, as primary influencers, require adequate resources. Consequently, schools demand increased funding to support quality instruction. Fix: Topic sentence, connectives 'as,' 'Consequently' = coherent argument.
8. Use of linking words (however, therefore, furthermore) and reference (pronouns, repetition) to connect ideas.
9. Logical organization and clear flow of ideas; reader understands the progression without effort.
10. Yes — you can use linking words but still lack logical order. Both matter equally.

Bounlu

All cards, step-by-step solutions and an AI tutor are in the Notek app.
Promy turns exam dates into automatic reminders.