

# COHERENCE

## Coherence in sentences and paragraphs

When sentences, ideas, and details fit together clearly, readers can follow along easily, and the writing is coherent. The ideas tie together smoothly and clearly. To establish the links that readers need, you can use the methods listed here. Note that good writers use a combination of these methods. Do not rely on and overuse any single method-especially transitional words.

### Repetition of a key term and phrase

**Example:** The problem with the 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.

Repetition of words can be avoided. Appropriate synonyms can be used in their place.

**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.

In the above example in the first sentence sacred word has been used twice. That can be avoided by using synonym of the word.

### Transitional words

There are many words in English that cue our readers to relationships between sentences, joining sentences together. See below for a table of transitional words. There you will find list of words such as however, therefore, in addition, also, but, moreover etc.

**Example:** I like autumn, *and yet*\* autumn is a sad time of the year, *too*. The leaves turn bright shades of red and the weather is mild, *but* \*I can't help thinking ahead to the winter and the ice storms that will surely blow through here. *In addition*,\* that will be season of chapped faces, too many layers of clothes to put on, and days when I'll have to shovel heaps of snow from my car's windshield.

\*See how transitional words have been used in the above paragraph

### List of Transitional words

- Also
- Again
- And
- Then
- Besides
- Equally
- Indeed
- Next
- In fact
- Moreover
- Finally
- In addition

### **Coherence between paragraphs**

Transitional words can also be used between paragraphs. Words such as:

- Therefore
- However
- Yet
- Thus
- First
- Later
- Then

### **To indicate comparison**

- At the same time
- In the same way
- In a like manner
- Likewise
- Similarly
- Like
- As

### **To indicate contrast**

- Although
- Even though
- Though

- At the same time
  - And yet
  - Conversely
  - However
  - But
  - In contrast
  - Nevertheless
  - Nonetheless
  - Notwithstanding
  - On the one hand, on the other hand
  - Still
  - Yet
  - Whereas
  - Or
  - Not
  - On the contrary
  - Despite
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