

Referential Coherence and Cohesion

Referential Coherence



Explicitly we could say:

When the Star-Belly Sneetches had frankfurter roasts
When the Star-Belly Sneetches had frankfurter roasts

Or the Star-Belly Sneetches had picnics or the Star-Belly Sneetches parties
or the Star-Belly Sneetches had marshmallow toasts,

Or picnics or parties or marshmallow toasts,

The Star-Belly Sneetches never invited the Plain-Belly Sneetches.

They never invited the Plain-Belly Sneetches.

The Star-Belly Sneetches left the Plain-Belly Sneetches out cold, in the dark of the beaches

They left them out cold, in the dark of the beaches

...

They kept them away. Never let them come near.

...

And that's how they treated them year after year.

Coherence is achieved by constructing a 'thread of references'.

Text: Seuss, D. (1961). The Sneetches. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (pp. 3-25). Random House.; Dr. Seuss (1989). Sneetches playing: *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.5.

Referential Coherence



Referential Cohesion

When the Star-Belly Sneetches_i had_i frankfurter roasts
Or Ø_iØ_i picnics or Ø_iØ_i parties or Ø_iØ_i marshmallow toasts,
They_i never invited the Plain-Belly Sneetches_k.
They_i left them_k out cold, in the dark of the beaches
They_i kept them_k away. Ø_i Never let them_k come near.
And that's how they_i treated them_k year after year.

Devices:
full
ellipses
anaphoric

Text: Seuss, D. (1961). The Sneetches. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (pp. 3-25). Random House.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock;
Sneetches playing: *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.5.

Referential Coherence



Prominence

- Star-Bellies subjects
- Star-Bellies' actions the topic
- Star-Bellies' perspective

When the Star-Belly Sneetches_i had_i frankfurter roasts
Or Ø_iØ_i picnics or Ø_iØ_i parties or Ø_iØ_i marshmallow toasts,
They_i never invited the Plain-Belly Sneetches_k.
They_i left them_k out cold, in the dark of the beaches
They_i kept them_k away. Ø_i Never let them_k come near.
And that's how they_i treated them_k year after year.

Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock; Text: Seuss, D. (1961). The Sneetches. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (pp. 3-25). Random House.;
Sneetches playing: *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.5.

Referential Coherence and Cohesion

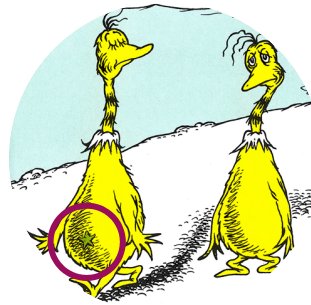
Star-Belly Sneetches_i

Anaphoric

They_i never invited...

Elliptical

Ø_i Never let them...



Sneetch with star: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.3.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Anaphoric/Cataphoric

Cataphoric

- A pronoun comes first.
- The postcedent comes after.

And he laughed as he drove
In his car up the beach

"They_i never learn.

No. You can't teach a sneetch_i!"

Anaphoric

- The general term for pronominal activity.
- A pronoun looks back to an antecedent.

When **the Star-Belly Sneetches_i**
had frankfurter roasts

They_i also had marshmallows.

Text: Seuss, D. (1961). *The Sneetches*. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (pp. 3-25). Random House.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock

Cataphoric Example

Cataphoric

- A pronoun comes first.
- The postcedent comes after.



Then I was deep within the woods
When, suddenly, I spied **them**.
I saw **a pair of pale green pants**,
With nobody inside **them**!

Text: Seuss, D. (1961). What Was I Scared Of?. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (p. 44). Random House.; Green Pants: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.63.

Indefinite Reference

Indefinite Reference

- Signaled by an indefinite determiner
 - a
 - an
 - some



entity
↓

A stranger zipped up in the strangest of cars.

Homer at the door: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, May 1). Uh oh! Looks like Homer just walked in on a VERY important meeting. You'll have to watch this Sunday to find out what this is all about! [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152876535953697>; McBean: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.9.

Indefinite Reference

Indefinite Reference

- Signaled by an indefinite determiner
 - a
 - an
 - some



There's a man at the door.

The man is at the door.

Homer at the door: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, May 1). Uh oh! Looks like Homer just walked in on a VERY important meeting. You'll have to watch this Sunday to find out what this is all about! [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152876535953697>; McBean: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.9.

Indefinite Reference

Indefinite Reference

- Signaled by an indefinite determiner
 - a
 - an
 - some
- Used to introduce (new) topics and characters.



Homer at the door: Brooks, J. L., Groening, M., & Simon, S. (Executive Producers). (2015, May 1). Uh oh! Looks like Homer just walked in on a VERY important meeting. You'll have to watch this Sunday to find out what this is all about! [Facebook, Timeline Photos] Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/TheSimpsons/photos/a.473850413696.246070.29534858696/10152876535953697>; McBean: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.9.

Definite Reference

Definite Reference

- Signaled by a definite determiner
the
- Used to refer to understood
(given) topics and characters.



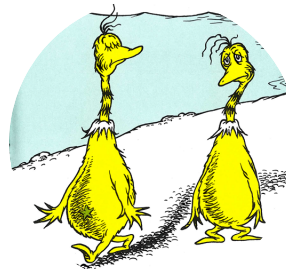
The man is at the door.

Homer with door: Adapted from 20th Century Fox Television; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock; Sneetch with star: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.3.

Definite Reference

Definite Reference

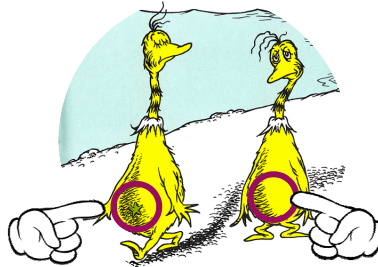
- Signaled by a definite determiner
the
- Used to refer to understood
(given) topics and characters.



Now, the Star-Belly Sneetches
Had bellies with stars.

Homer with door: Adapted from 20th Century Fox Television; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock; Sneetch with star: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.3.

Definite Reference Example



Now, the Star-Belly Sneetches

Had bellies_j with stars_j.

The Plain-Belly Sneetches_k

Had none_j upon tars_(k).

Alternate analysis

[Plain-Belly Sneetches]_j

... thar_j ø_s.

Text: Seuss, D. (1961). The Sneetches. In *The Sneetches and Other Stories* (pp. 3-25). Random House.; Hand: Noedelhap/iStock/Thinkstock; Sneetches: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.3.

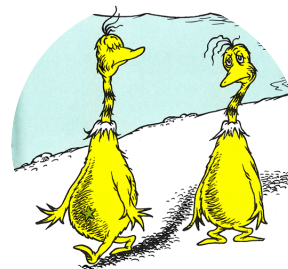
Referential Coherence and Cohesion

Referential Coherence

The linkage that threads through a text of the same entities, actions, or objects.

Referential Cohesion

The devices by which the linkages are made.



Sneetches: Dr. Seuss (1989). *The Sneetches and Other Stories*. Random House. p.3.