

LINKING

Cohesion is one of the two qualities that give a written or spoken text unity and purpose, the other being coherence. It refers to the use of linguistic devices to join sentences together, including conjunctions, reference words, substitution and lexical devices such as repetition of words, collocations and lexical groups.

I. Find the discourse markers (= 'linking words') in the following sentences. Then discuss their function.

- a. Furthermore, child mortality rates must be examined.
- b. Prices are rising worldwide, thus encouraging investment.
- c. Due to the high rate of inflation, interest rates were raised.
- d. Finally, the role of the computer in education will be discussed.
- e. Various writers have examined this issue, for instance, Van Exel (2000).
- f. Although this study concentrates mainly on students from abroad,

II. Fill in the gaps with appropriate discourse markers.

There are two reasons for supporting pure scientific research. (1), it satisfies humans' natural curiosity about the universe in which we live. (2), technological advances that followed on from pure scientific research have led to improvement in our lives. (3), the non-stick coating on saucepans has made washing the dishes so much easier. (4), improved aeroplane materials have made flying faster, quieter and cheaper. (5), we should be grateful for pure scientific research.

Exploration of space has resulted in improved understanding about weather systems on other planets and moons in our solar system. , (6) we have an improved understanding of the earth's weather systems (7) the consequences of future changes such as global warming.

It is so easy for scientific advances to cause problems. (8), nuclear energy sounded wonderful when it was first developed, (9) of its expected low cost (10) lack of pollution. Safety was a concern and was taken seriously, (11) careful precautions were usually taken, and in most cases these did actually result in a low chance of an accident. (12), nothing is perfect, including safety systems, and when problems do happen, the consequences are extremely serious. (13), although actual operation of a nuclear reactor produces little visible pollution, disposal of the radioactive materials that are produced is extremely difficult and expensive and, (14), nuclear power is now considered too expensive in many countries. (15), many governments have stopped planning to build more nuclear reactors. This example clearly shows that

the miracle of yesterday may become the disaster of tomorrow. Not every scientific advance has the expected result.

III. Notice some of the ways in which the following single sentence can be added or commented on.

I'm going to continue with my English...

because	I like the language.
because of	this book.
owing to	its importance in the world of science.
on account of	what my teachers have told me.
in case	I need it one day.
in order to	take proficiency next year.
so as not to	forget what I've learnt.
so that	I can work in the States one day.
whether	you think it's a good idea or not.
wherever	I go.
whatever	happens.
whichever	country I go to next.
however	difficult the next stage is.
regardless	of my slow progress so far.
even if	I have to give up all my other interests.
whenever	I can.
if	it's possible.
providing	I can find a teacher.
provided that	someone agrees to teach me.
unless	you persuade me that Chinese is more useful.
although	I know I'm not the most gifted linguist.
even though	I'm a very busy person.
in spite of	the cost of these lessons.
despite	what you've said about my slow progress.
but	I think I'll give up French.
whereas	everyone else in the class is giving up.
unlike	the others, who are stopping.
as opposed to	my Japanese.
so	you'll see me again next term.
which	is a bit silly, I suppose.
considering	I live on a desert island.

IV. Notice how cause and effect are expressed.

1. A lot of my problems stem from trying to translate from my language.
2. My hesitation in speech is caused by a lack of vocabulary.
3. Some basic errors can be traced back to the way I learnt English at the beginning.
4. My large vocabulary is a direct consequence of knowing two other European languages.
5. Most of my problems have their roots in grammatical uncertainty.
6. Studying vocabulary has led to a better understanding of how English work.
7. More vocabulary means more fluency.
8. Learning a lot of words can result in confusion.

V. Notice how a sentence can be added to, strengthened or balanced.

1. The illogical nature of much of English grammar makes it an unfortunate choice as a world language, let alone the leading one.
2. Consequently, many non-native speakers resent having English forced upon them.
3. All possible attempts should be made, therefore, to further the cause of Esperanto.
4. For this reason, we should all try to ensure that French is not lost as an international language.
5. In spite of this – or because of it, perhaps – English has been the vehicle for much of the world's greatest literature.
6. It does, however, prove to be a relatively easy language for most people to learn, at least in the early stages.
7. On the other hand, no other language can boast the richness and versatility that English has acquired over the centuries.
8. Furthermore, its vocabulary is impossibly imprecise, its preposition usage totally ridiculous, not to mention the absurdity of its spelling rules.
9. Moreover, it has lost so much of its charm over the past few decades that it no longer represents a satisfying subject for study.
10. What is more, the language has diversified into so many forms that most English speakers around the world would have difficulty in understanding each other.
11. Besides, who really wants a world language anyway?
12. In fact, who needs language?

VI. Put the following facts together and write a cohesive, coherent text of 8 sentences or fewer.

GEORGE ORWELL

He was born in India.

He was born in 1903.

His real name was Eric Blair.

His Father worked in the Bengal Civil Service.

He went to Eton.

He left Eton in 1921.

He joined the Imperial Police in Burma.

He spent five years working in the police force.

He returned to Europe.

He worked in a number of menial jobs.

He wrote a book about the experiences.

The book was called "Down and Out in Paris and London".

He fought on the republican side in the Spanish Civil War.

He wrote a book about this experience.

The book was called "Homage to Catalonia".

It was published in 1938.

He also wrote novels.

His best known novels are "Animal Farm" and "Nineteen Eighty-Four".

"Animal Farm" was published in 1945.

"Nineteen Eighty-Four" was published in 1949.

"Animal Farm" is a satire on communism.

"Nineteen Eighty-Four" describes a nightmare future world.

He died in 1950.

He died from tuberculosis.

He was 47.

CAUSE AND EFFECT II

Verbs relating to cause and effect

1. Match the sentences and the explanation of the verbs used in the sentences.

1. Her grandmother **influenced** / **had a considerable influence** on Sarah's choice of career.
2. Parental attitude largely **determines** how well a child adapts to school.
3. A good teacher **motivates** their students.
4. The flow of traffic through the town is **facilitated** by the one-way system.
5. His speech **provoked** an angry response.
6. The explosion was **triggered** by the heat.
7. The tilting of the earth on its axis **accounts for** the change in the seasons.
8. Dave's determination **springs / stems from** his desire to improve the world.
9. The country's victory **gave rise to** a new mood in society.
10. Mobile technology **contributed to** the information revolution.
11. Their child was given drugs to **stimulate** growth.
12. Her exhibition **generated** a lot of interest.
13. The drugs may **induce** nausea.
14. A teacher's presence can often **inhibit** teenagers' discussion.
15. A number of benefits can be **derived from** this situation.

- a) cause, often used in a medical context
- b) made easier
- c) cause, usually something negative
- d) cause something to develop or function
- e) gained as a result of something
- f) is the main factor affecting something
- g) affect
- h) to prevent someone from doing something by making them feel nervous or embarrassed
- i) explains
- j) makes them want to do something positive
- k) was one factor influencing
- l) produce or cause something (= create)
- m) to start or develop as the result of something
- n) started, usually something sudden and negative
- o) to cause something to exist

Nouns relating to cause and effect

noun/ verb	example	synonym (or explanation)
chain reaction	The incident set off a chain reaction which affected us all.	
consequence	The war had major consequences .	
effect, impact	The effect/impact of the film on the audience was very powerful.	
end	Does the end justify the means?	
origin/source	The accident was the origin/source of her later problem.	
precedent	There were several precedents for taking such decision.	
reason	What was the reason for his success / the reason why he succeeded	
<i>motivate</i> _____		
<i>Influence</i> _____	The authorities were worried about the _____ of Western films.	
<i>trigger</i> _____	The hijacking became a _____ point for military action.	
<i>contribute</i> _____	Einstein was awarded the Nobel Prize for his _____ to Quantum Theory.	
<i>induce</i> _____	The government think the tax reduction will be an _____ to save more.	<i>something that you offer to someone in order to persuade them to do what you want</i>