

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.

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,

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.

Reading 1

Notice some of the ways in which the following single sentence can be added to and 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 business.
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 Russian.
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.

Practice

What do you think of English now? Which of these statements apply to you? (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 works.
- 7 More vocabulary means more fluency.
- 8 Learning a lot of words can result in confusion.

Exercises

1.

The parts of the sentences below have been mixed up. Join the parts on the left with the correct ones on the right:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) The accident occurred because | a) it needs more and more food. |
| 2) Some species of fish are in trouble because of | b) political conflict and unrest. |
| 3) In some countries tensions between different national groups have resulted in | c) an excess of demand over supply. |
| 4) The worsening economic situation in many African countries leads to | d) the temperature change in the region. |
| 5) The main living areas are situated on the south side of the house as | e) are rising sea levels and hotter weather. |
| 6) The country has a growing population; therefore | f) violence. |
| 7) Solar energy is at minimum intensity throughout the winter because of | g) the road was icy. |
| 8) The crash of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 caused | h) sea temperature rises. |
| 9) The two main effects of global warming | i) this catches most of the sun. |
| 10) Scientists believe that the melting of the glacier is due to | j) the low angle of the sun. |
| 11) Inflation results from | k) many people to lose their homes and jobs. |
| 12) Pellagra is brought about by | l) a deficiency in niacin. |

2.

Making use of the information in the preceding exercise, complete the following sentences:

icy road conditions **caused** the accident.

- 1) Political conflict and unrest in many African countries is _____ of the worsening economic situation. 2) Sea temperature rises _____ some species of fish to be in trouble. 3) Violence in some countries was _____ of tensions between different national groups. 4) _____ the south side of the house catches most of the sun, the main living areas are situated there. 5) The country needs more and more food _____ its population is growing. 6) The low angle of the sun throughout the winter _____ solar energy to be at minimum intensity. 7) _____ the New York Stock Exchange crash was that many people lost their homes and jobs. 8) Rising sea levels and hotter weather _____ global warming. 9) According to scientists, the temperature change in the region _____ the melting of the glacier. 10) _____ an excess of demand over supply is inflation.

3.

Link the sentences showing the cause and result:

1. People in some parts in the world cannot afford computers. They are too expensive.
2. He didn't have an antivirus program, and a virus attacked his computer.
3. Computer scientists have tried hard to stop spam. The senders of spam have become more sophisticated.
4. TV in the UK will be digital in 2012. Everyone will have to buy a digital receiver.
5. Batteries are too expensive. The computer is powered by solar energy.
6. Many people do not back up their computer files. They lose a lot of data.
7. Many users don't empty their mailboxes. They may have problems downloading their mail.
8. There is a serious threat from viruses. Many people install an anti-virus program.
9. Many employees do not know how to use basic programs effectively. Many companies offer IT training.
10. People use copies of programs. Manufacturers put in secret codes to detect copies.

Reading 2

Notice, in this final and more difficult section, how a sentence can be added to, strengthened or balanced.

The illogical nature of much of English grammar makes it an unfortunate choice as a world language, **let alone** the leading one.

Consequently, many non-native speakers resent having English forced upon them. All possible attempts should be made, **therefore**, to further the cause of Esperanto. **For this reason**, we should all try to ensure that French is not lost as an international language.

In spite of this – or **because of** it, perhaps – English has been the vehicle for much of the world's greatest literature.

It does, **however**, prove to be a relatively easy language for most people to learn, **at least** in the early stages.

On the other hand, no other language can boast the richness and versatility that English has acquired over the centuries.

Furthermore, its vocabulary is impossibly imprecise, its preposition usage totally ridiculous, **not to mention** the absurdity of its spelling rules.

Moreover, it has lost so much of its charm over the past few decades that it no longer represents a satisfying subject for study.

What is more, the language has diversified into so many forms that most English speakers the world over would have difficulty in understanding each other.

Besides, who really wants a world language anyway? **In fact**, who needs language?

LINKING WORDS

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 these 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.

Types of Tests

Combine the sentences below into a paragraph with 11 sentences.

1. Throughout the world, students take tests.
However, these tests can be very different.
2. On standardized tests, test-takers fill in an answer sheet.
Test scorers mark the test with an answer key.
The key has right answers.
3. For example, the TOEFL is a standardized test.
It measures English language proficiency.
It is given to non-native speakers of English.
4. In addition, many high school students take the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test).
These students want to enter college in the United States.
College students take the GRE (Graduate Record Exam).
These students want to enter graduate programs in the United States.
5. Another type of standardized test is used.
It is often used before students begin studying.
It is a placement test.
6. At many colleges and universities, students must take English placement tests.
One form is given to native English speakers.
Another form is given to non-native English speakers.
7. In general, entrance and placement tests determine a student's general level of ability.
It is difficult to study for these tests.
8. Achievement tests, on the other hand, require study.
They often determine specific course grades.
9. Objective tests require specific knowledge.
They may include filling in blanks.
They may include marking items true or false.
They may include choosing from several choices.
They may include giving short answers.
10. The subjective test requires a written response.
The response is often in the form of a paragraph.
11. Students take many entrance tests.
Students take many placement tests.
Students take many achievement tests.
Students need to understand their differences in form and purpose.