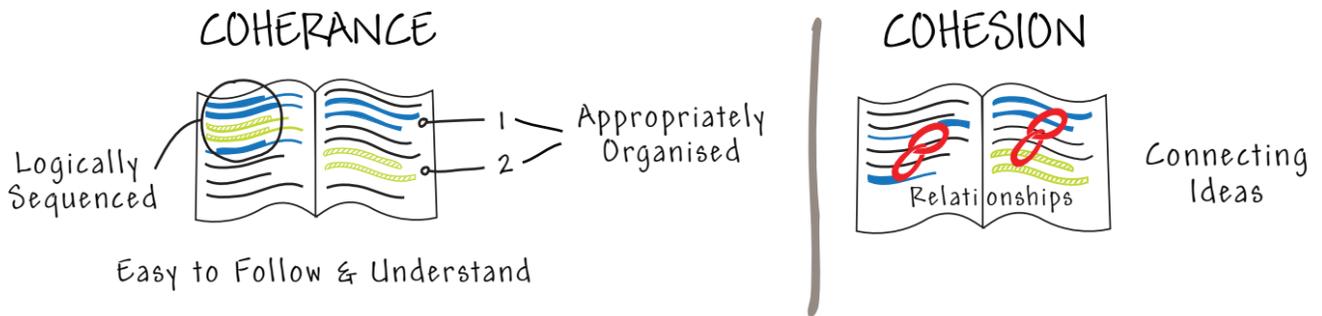


BRITISH COUNCIL - IELTS WRITING - Coherence & Cohesion

Coherence & Cohesion

This is a vital feature of writing – manage this effectively and your readers task becomes much easier – that would be a sign of excellent coherence & cohesion.



Coherence

The key to effective coherence is planning – spending a few minutes planning your IELTS writing highly recommended. Consider this example of organising ideas:

TASK 2 ESSAY

Question:

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy.
The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Possible Structure:

- 1 INTRODUCTION - paraphrase question & include your opinion
- 2 BODY PARAGRAPHS - arguments for nuclear technology
- 3 BODY PARAGRAPHS - against nuclear technology
- 4 CONCLUSION - paraphrase your opinion

Plan your essay like this **BEFORE** you start writing



Paragraphs give structure to a piece of writing. Express one idea or set of ideas in each paragraph. Sum that theme in the first sentence of each paragraph – these become topic sentences. The remainder of the paragraph can be supporting explanations, evidence, or examples. A simple recipe for effective paragraphs – I-E-E (idea, explain, examples).

Examples of Cohesive Devices

✓ Connect Paragraphs & Sentences with Linking Words



Don't over-use linking words or phrases or use inappropriately – this could become confusing or irritating for the reader. Also don't always use linking words at the beginning of sentences – show more variety.

Adding similar ideas	"in addition...", "another reason is...", "equally..."
Contrasting ideas	"in contrast...", "on the other hand...", "on the contrary..." "although..."
Giving examples or evidence	"for example...", "for instance...", "to illustrate this..."
Explaining results	"as a result...", "for this reason...", "consequently..."
Sequencing	"firstly...", "secondly...", "next...", "to begin with..."
Providing explanations	"owing to...", "because of...", "due to..."
Drawing conclusions	"in conclusion...", "to sum up..."
Introducing your opinion	"in my opinion...", "to my mind...", "it seems to me that ..."

Alternative Methods of Cohesion

Cohesion does not only come from linking devices, there are other methods of creating cohesion:

For Instance through Referencing by using Pronouns:

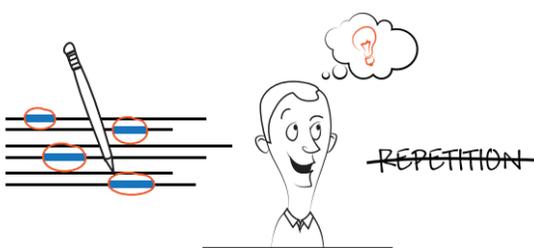
"**Firstly** I am very happy to receive this award. **Additionally**, I would like to thank my colleagues, without **them** I wouldn't be standing here accepting **this**."

Using Substitution

"**Famous people** deserve a private life. **Celebrities** also sell newspapers."

Improving your Coherence & Cohesion

Practice, Review, Think...



As you practice writing essays, review your writing and circle the different linking devices you used. Then think about how you could use different words to avoid repetition.

Additional Resources...

For more information, please see the other Writing Test videos:



Task Achievement, Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range and Accuracy.

Look out for other videos & downloads on IELTS Speaking & Writing.