COHERENCE & COHESION

Academic Writing – Coherence & Cohesion

Coherence refers to the logical relations which makes a text a unified whole rather than a sequence of unconnected sentences. One of the main problems is the lack of structuring and the relation among sentences and paragraphs is not explicit. Cohesion concerns the grammatical and lexical aspect of the sentences, words repetition and tenses mistakes may affect your readers understanding and hence you may be awarded a lower score.

It is important when you are producing academic text for both the university or International exams that you use a variety of methods of creating cohesion. You should be sure how to use repeated and rephrased key ideas, pronouns and determiners, and transition expressions to create cohesion. To help the reader see the relationship between sentences and ideas transition words must be used throughout your essay.

USE REPEATED OR REPHRASED KEY IDEAS

One way to make your written and spoken English more cohesive is to use repeated and rephrased key ideas. Repeating words can provide a rhythm to the paragraph. Look at the following example of repeated and rephrased key ideas for cohesion.

I think that the most important characteristic in a friend is *honesty*. If someone is a friend, then he or she must be *honest*. People can only trust only if he or she is *truthful*, if a friend cannot tell the *truth* it is very difficult to consider him or her as a friend.

In this example, the key idea **honesty** is repeated as **honest** and rephrased as **truthful** and **truth** to make the passage cohesive.

Time for practice

1. Choose which phrase or sentence best completes the paragraph and makes the paragraph cohesive

Paragraph 1

An effective advertisement matches images and music to its products and 1._____. For instance, if it's selling cars to young men, it uses the image of speed and rock music. If it's selling cars to families, it uses the image of practicality and pleasant melodies. 2. _____.

1. A. its market

   B. the market it wants to reach

   C. to those who will buy the product

2. A. If it's trying to sell a more expensive car, it uses classical music to suggest elegance and comfort.

B. If the car is for the rich, advertiser will want to emphasize elegance and wealth

C. If it's selling cars to the wealthy executives, it uses the image of wealth and classical music.

Paragraph 2

The contributions scientist make to society are more obvious. The cars we drive, the computers we use at home and at work, 3._____- all of these come from the ideas and hard work of scientists. Because of scientific contributions, we´re living longer and healthier lives. Scientists also 4. _____ the arts. Movies are the result of science, as are television, radio, and streaming.

3.   A. and the stove and cleaning machine

B. the appliances we have to help us cook our meals and clean our hpuse

C. the cooking and cleaning inventions

4.   A. contribute to

B. help fund

C. support

2. Fill in the blank in each pair of sentences with one of the words from the box to make sentences cohesive.

Chance	competitor	energy	outcome	pleases	shocked	speaks

1. I am happy you have the opportunity to go there. It _____me that you have been given such a _____.
2. She is quite dynamic speaker. She always _____ with a great amount of _____.
3. The results of the competition were entirely unexpected. The _____ was _____by the _____

3.

acts	brief	determined	positive	problems	remarks	resolved

4. The lawyer made a short statement. His _____ were quite _____.

5. The problems are not overwhelming. The _____can be _____.

6. If you look at his actions in a negative way, you might say that he is stubborn. Conversely, if you look at the way he _____ in a _____ way, you might say that he is _____.

Answer key

1.

1. A
2. C
3. B
4. A

2.

1. Pleases / chance
2. Speaks, energy
3. Competitor/shocked/outcome
4. Remarks / brief
5. Problems/resolved
6. Acts/positive /determined