

Cohesive devices in texts

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A. Referencing

There are two types of referential devices that can create cohesion in texts:

1. Anaphoric – this is when a writer refers back to something or someone in the text but avoids repetition

e.g. **The girl** went to the shop. **She** bought some lollies.

OR use of “as stated previously...” or “the aforementioned...”

2. Cataphoric – this is the opposite of anaphora. Something is introduced before being identified.

e.g. **She** looked beautiful as always...it was always **Alison Ashley**.

B. Ellipsis

Ellipsis involves missing out words to make the text more easily readable. Some examples are:

e.g. What are you doing?

Playing piano. (rather than *I am playing piano*)

The older friend was really crazy, the younger very shy.

(*friend* and *was* are deleted)

C. Substitution (similar to referencing)

Substitution is when a word is not omitted but substituted with another word to make the sentence flow.

e.g. What **dress** would you like to buy? I want the red **one**. **It** is pretty.

D. Lexical cohesion

There are two forms of lexical cohesion – repetition and collocation.

e.g. What **dress** would you like to **buy**? I will **purchase** the red **outfit**.

Once upon a time...

E. Text connectives

Conjunctions and transitions are examples of text connectives.

e.g. and, because, then, however, consequently etc.

F. Nominalisation

Changing a verb to a noun.

e.g. The people **destroy** the rainforest.

The **destruction** of the rainforest is due to human impact.

Nominalisation helps students to build technical knowledge, that is, extend their use of discipline-specific vocabulary.