

Tikrit University

College of Education for Humanities

Department of English



Subject: Essay

Class: 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **UNITY & COHERENCE**

Lecturer: Waqas Saadi Ismael (PhD)

2025-2026

## UNITY

**Unity** is important in constructing a good paragraph it is a key element in a well-written paragraph. A unified paragraph focuses exclusively on one main idea.

For example, if you are writing an essay about the advantages of different kinds of pain medications, you might have a paragraph about the advantages of taking aspirin.

In your paragraph, you should discuss only the advantages of aspirin. Every supporting sentence must directly explain or prove the main idea.

## COHERENCE /kəʊhɪərəns/

Although paragraph unity is important, it is not the only factor that you need to consider in writing a successful paragraph. In order for paragraphs to be well-structured, they must also be *coherent*. The word *coherence* comes from the Latin verb *cohere*, which means "to hold together." For coherence in writing, the sentences must hold together; that is, the movement from one sentence to the next must be *logical* and *smooth*. There must be no sudden jumps. Each sentence should flow smoothly into the next one.

There are four ways to achieve coherence:

- Repeat key nouns
- Use consistent pronouns. e.g. don't change from *you* to *he* (change of person) or from *he* to *they*
- Use transition signals to link ideas.
- Arrange your ideas in logical order

## Synonyms

**Synonyms** two or more words with very closely related meanings. You can use synonyms in your writing to discuss concepts, examples, and opinions without being repetitious. If you want to use a synonym in your writing, but you cannot think of one, consult a print or online thesaurus. A thesaurus is a reference work that provides synonyms for many different words. Remember, however, that synonyms can sometimes have slightly different meanings from one another. When you choose a synonym to use in your writing, be sure that it means exactly what you want to say.

**e.g. almost/nearly, big/large, broad/wide, freedom/liberty,**

## **TRANSITION SIGNALS**

**Transition signals** are like traffic signs. Signals words such as *first*, *finally*, and *however* or phrase such as *in conclusion*, *on the other hand*, and *as a result*. There are different kinds of transition signals such as subordinators (*when*, *although*), coordinators (*and*, *but*) adjectives (*another*, *additional*), and prepositions (*because of*, *in spite of*).

## **Transition Phrases and Conjunctive Adverbs**

Most of the transition phrases and conjunctive adverbs in the Transition Signals can appear at the beginning, in the middle, or at the end of an independent clause. They are usually set off by commas. You may remember that an independent clause is a group of words that contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought.

**For example**, the Baltic Sea in northern Europe is only one-fourth as saline as the Red Sea in the Middle East.

The runoff created by melting snow, **furthermore**, adds a considerable amount of freshwater to dilute the saline seawater.

The Mediterranean Sea is more saline than the Red Sea, **however**.

## Coordinators

TRANSITION SIGNALS					
Meaning / Function	Transition Phrases	Conjunctive Adverbs	Coordinating Conjunctions	Subordinating Conjunctions	Other Signals
To introduce an additional idea	in addition	furthermore moreover besides also too	and		another (+noun) an additional (+noun)
To introduce opposite idea or contrast	on the other hand In contrast	however nevertheless instead still nonetheless	but yet	although though even though whereas while	in spite of (+noun) despite (+noun)
To introduce a choice or alternative		otherwise	or	if unless	
To introduce a restatement or explanation	in fact indeed	that is			
To list in order	first, second, third next, last, finally				the first, second, third, etc. the next, last, final (+noun)
To introduce an example	for example for instance				an example of (+noun) such as (+noun)
To introduce a conclusion or summary	clearly in brief in conclusion indeed in short in summary				
To introduce result	accordingly as a result as a consequence	therefore consequently	so		

This group of transition signals includes the seven coordinating conjunctions *and, but, so, or, nor, for, and yet* and the five correlative (paired) conjunctions *both....and, not only..... but also, neither ..... nor, either ..... or, and whether .....or*. When coordinators connect two independent clauses, use a comma.

e.g.

- children not only need love, **but** they also need discipline
- would you rather take a written **or** an oral exam?

Conjunction	Function	Example
For	Connects a reason to a result	I'm a little hungry, <b>for</b> I didn't eat breakfast this morning.
And	Connects equal similar ideas	John likes to fish <b>and</b> hunt.
Nor	Connects two negative sentences	She does not eat meat, <b>nor</b> does she drink milk.
But	Connects equal different ideas	I like to eat fish <b>but</b> not to catch them.
Or	Connects two equal choices	Do you prefer coffee <b>or</b> tea?
Yet	Connects equal contrasting ideas	It is sunny <b>yet</b> cold.
So	Connects a result to a reason	I did not eat breakfast this morning, <b>so</b> I am A little hungry.

Conjunction Pairs	Example
both.....and	Both San Francisco <b>and</b> Sydney have beautiful harbors.
not only... but also	Japanese food is <b>not only</b> delicious to eat <b>but also</b> beautiful to look at.
either ..... or	Bring <b>either</b> a raincoat <b>or</b> an umbrella when you visit Seattle.
neither.. nor	My grandfather could <b>neither</b> read <b>nor</b> write, but he was a very wise person.
whether.... or	The newlyweds could not decide whether to live with her parents or to rent an apartment.

## Subordinators

A *subordinator* (subordinating conjunction) is the first word in a dependent clause. As you may remember, a dependent clause is a group of words containing a subject and a verb that does not express a complete thought. A dependent clause always begins with a subordinator and must be connected to an independent clause to form a sentence. The sentence may or may not have a comma. The general rule is this: Put a comma after a dependent clause but not in front of one.

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

**Although** the company's sales increased last year, its net profit declined.

INDEPENDENT CLAUSE

DEPENDENT CLAUSE

The company's net profit declined last year **although** its sales increased.

## Other signals

*Additional* is an adjective, so it is followed by a noun.

*In addition to* is a preposition, so it is followed by a noun or noun phrase.

Such as is followed by a noun or noun phrase and no comma.

## LOGICAL ORDER

Some common kinds of logical order English are *chronological order*, *the logical division of ideas*, and *comparison / contrast*

- *Chronological order* is by time-a sequence of events or steps
- In a logical division of ideas, a topic is divided into parts, and each parts is discussed separately.
- In a *comparison / contrast* paragraph, the similarities and / or differences between two or more items are discussed.

## TIMED WRITING

### Procedures

1. Read the writing prompts carefully. (2 minutes)
2. Brainstorming or make a cluster diagram to generate ideas. Then group related ideas together and organize them. (5 minutes)
3. Write a topic sentence. (3 minutes)
4. Write your paragraph. Be sure to include a topic sentence, supporting ideas, and a conclusion. (15 minutes)
5. Check your paragraph for errors. Correct any mistakes. (5 minutes)
6. Give your paper to your teacher.