

Six ways of creating cohesion

REFERENCE	Reference is a way of creating cohesion using determiners (e.g. "this", "that", "these" and "those"); pronouns (e.g. "him", "them", "me"); possessive pronouns (e.g. "your", "their", "hers"); relative pronouns (e.g. "which", "who", "whose"). This type of cohesion can also be achieved with expressions like: "similarly", "likewise", "less".
CONJUNCTION	Conjunction includes listing words such as, "firstly", "next", "lastly"; linkers for addition (e.g. "moreover", "and", "also"); contrast (e.g. "but", "however", "despite"); and cause and effect (e.g. "so", "because", "as a result").
SUBSTITUTION	Substitution uses a word/phrase to replace a word/phrase used earlier. For instance, "the one(s)" and "the same" can be used to replace nouns (e.g. "I'll have the same."). Verbs can be replaced by "do" (e.g. "The authorities said they had acted, but nobody believed they had done.").
ELLIPSIS	Ellipsis is when we omit words because they are understood from the context (e.g. "John can type and I can [type] too!", "I don't want to go out, do you?" [want to go out]).
LEXIS	Lexis is a way of creating cohesion using: synonyms (e.g. "beautiful" for "lovely"); hyponyms and superordinates (e.g. "daffodil", "rose" and "daisy", are all hyponyms of the superordinate "flower"). Lexical chains are created in a text by using words in the same lexical set (e.g. "army", "soldiers", "barracks", "weapons").
COHESIVE NOUNS	Cohesive nouns are a kind of lexical reference. They can summarise many words in one (e.g. "attitude", "solution", "difficulty"). They are used to signal what is to come (e.g. "the problem to be discussed..."), or can refer back (e.g. "The issue mentioned above...").

For more information and practice activities see: <http://aeo.sllf.qmul.ac.uk/Files/Cohesion/Cohesion.html>

Task 1:

Match the ways of creating cohesion with the examples.

1. REFERENCE	a) I need to buy some new shoes and those blue <i>ones</i> look lovely!
2. CONJUNCTION	b) The two cars hit each other on the motorway. However, nobody was hurt in the <i>accident</i> .
3. SUBSTITUTION	c) The <i>students</i> attending the <i>lecture</i> all <i>took notes</i> and asked a lot of questions.
4. ELLIPSIS	d) <i>Firstly</i> , we need to water all the plants <i>because</i> the weather has been very dry.
5. LEXIS	e) Ann was quite happy to pick up the snake, although the others did not want to [<i>pick up the snake</i>].
6. COHESIVE NOUNS	f) Tom went alone to <i>the party</i> , <i>which</i> was fancy dress, and <i>he</i> made his costume <i>himself</i> .