

COHESIVE DEVICES

101

AND WHY THEY MATTER FOR THE COMPREHENSION OF YOUR WRITING

WHAT ARE COHESIVE DEVICES?

Cohesive devices (CD) are the parts of a sentence that connect the different ideas in a sentence, paragraph or text.

Their purpose is to avoid repetition and redundancy, resulting in a text that is cohesive and comprehensive. Other names for these devices are linking words, anaphora's or connectors.

DIFFERENT TYPES



PRONOUNS OR NAMES

Without CD:

1) **Cars** are one of the most common means of transportation in America. Although they are very expensive, many households have more than one car.

2) **Jessica** wakes up every day at 7am. However, when there is a national holiday, **Jessica** likes to sleep in.

With CD:

1) **Cars** are one of the most common means of transportation in America. Although they are very expensive, many households have more than one of **them**.

2) **Jessica** wakes up every day at 7am. However, when there is a national holiday, **she** likes to sleep in.

Other CDs:

- It (for things)
- she/he/they/them (persons and some nouns)
- Shortening names (Charles Baudelaire to Baudelaire)



USE OF SYNONYMS

Without CD:

Everyone needs to include **vegetables** in their diets. There are various **vegetables** that have essential vitamins.

With CD:

Everyone needs to include vegetables in their diets **for their health benefits**. For example, **carrots and tomatoes** have essential vitamins.



TRANSITIONAL WORDS, INTER-CLAUSAL CONNECTORS AND MORE

The **writer** talks about multiple themes in his poetry. **Life, death and loss** are some of them that are present in different parts of his poetry.

Throughout his poetry, the writer talks about multiple themes. **For example**, topics like life, death and loss are present in different parts of his poems.

Factors to keep in mind:

- different types of transitional words.
- Variations in conjunctions, preposition and determiners are essential.
- The key is create a flow between complete ideas.

Example from Chalmers at <https://writing.chalmers.se/chalmers-writing-guide/writing-a-text/coherence-cohesion/>

EXAMPLES OF CD IN COMPLEX WRITING

*There are three components to a typical modern catalytic converter: **one** to effect the **reduction** of nitrogen oxides, **another** to facilitate the **oxidation** of carbon monoxide and hydrocarbons, and the **third** to maintain the correct abundance of oxygen. **In the first stage** the nitrogen oxides are **reduced** using a platinum catalyst, which facilitates their decomposition into nitrogen and oxygen. **In the next stage** the carbon fragments are **oxidized** over a platinum/rhodium catalyst. **Finally**, the correct amount of oxygen is ensured by monitoring the amount of oxygen passing into the engine, **and** by incorporating into the catalyst a metal oxide that absorbs oxygen (by reacting with it to form a higher oxide) when the fuel mixture has too much oxygen and reverts to the lower oxide, releasing oxygen, when the mixture has too little (Atkins. P.W, 1991)*

For more information on the CDCL

<https://generales.uprrp.edu/competencias-linguisticas/>

Social media platforms:

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