

Coherent paragraphs

- Unity: All sentences relate to the topic.
- Coherence: Each sentence also relates to the sentences before it.

- Ways to give a paragraph coherence
 - Logical order
 - Transition signals
 - Consistent tense
 - Repeat key words

Unity

- THINK about your topic.
- PLAN only ideas that support the topic.
- WRITE.
- REVISE. Remove or replace sentences not supporting the topic.

Coherence: Logical order

- **Order by time:** Good for events, things that happened or things that happen.
 - Narratives or processes
 - First thing first, second thing second, etc.
 - Transition signals related to time or relative order.

Order by time

You can make pie if you follow three steps. First, make the crust. Combine 150 grams of flour with 100 grams of butter and 30cc water. Be careful not to stir too much. Next, choose the filling and put it in the crust. Apples, strawberries, or rhubarb are all tasty fillings. Finally, bake the pie in the oven at 170° for 40 minutes. You will know it is done when the crust is golden brown.

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Coherence: Logical order

- **Order by similar ideas:** groups of things that are similar
 - There may be many ways to divide the ideas.
 - It doesn't matter which group is first. You decide.
 - Write all your ideas about one group first, then all about another group.
 - Use transition signals when you change groups.

Similar ideas

There are many adjustments I must make as a Thai girl living in the U.S. First of all, I must get used to a new kind of food. I am learning to eat hamburgers because they are not expensive and are easy to buy. In addition, I am learning to meet new friends. I meet not only Americans but also other international students. For example, two of my friends are from Pakistan. Another kind of adjustment is the weather. Some days America is just as hot as Thailand. But on other days it is cold and very strange for me.

Similar ideas

There are many adjustments I must make as a Thai girl living in the U.S. **First of all**, I must get used to a new kind of food. I am learning to eat hamburgers because they are not expensive and are easy to buy. **In addition**, I am learning to meet new friends. I meet not only Americans but also other international students. **For example**, two of my friends are from Pakistan. **Another kind of adjustment** is the weather. Some days America is just as hot as Thailand. But on other days it is cold and very strange for me.

Coherence: Logical order

- **Order of importance:** for when one idea is more important than the others
 - Usually the most important idea is last.
 - Occasionally the most important idea is first.
 - Use transition signals such as “most important” or “more significantly”.
 - You can also include “most important” type words in the topic sentence.

Order of importance

Gold is prized not only for its beauty but, more importantly, for its utility. First of all, gold is beautiful. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornaments. Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. More important than its beauty is the usefulness of gold for science and industry. Gold is used for hundreds of industrial applications, from earphones to super computers. In conclusion, gold is not just beautiful but useful in many ways.

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Coherence: Transition signals

- Add words or phrases that mark changes between important ideas.
- Indicate similarities, differences, examples, reasons, conclusions, etc.
- Some transition signals work best with particular topics or logical order.
 - “Most importantly,” “The next day,” etc.

Coherence: Transition signals

- **(Next week's lecture will be about using transition signals.)**

Coherence: Consistent tense

- If you are writing about something that happened in the past, usually you will use past tense (過去形).
- General processes or description often use present tense (現在形).
- Whatever tense you choose, **be consistent**. Every time you write about the same time, use the same tense.

Coherence: Consistent tense

- Every time you write about the same time, use the same tense.
 - *On Friday, I go to English class. I write for 15 minutes.*
 - *Last Friday, I went to English class. I wrote for 15 minutes.*
 - *By the time you come to English class, you should **have finished** your homework.*



Different tense, because it's a different time

Coherence: Consistent tense

English class (starts / started) the same way every week. First, Dr. Nilep (calls / called) the roll. While he (does / did) that, we (take / took) a plastic card. Then Dr. Nilep (tells / told) us to find a group. With our group, we (discuss / discussed) our textbook exercises. After that, we (write / wrote) for 15 minutes. Then Dr. Nilep (lectures / lectured) about writing.

Either present tense or past tense is OK. But whichever you choose, be consistent. If you chose “starts”, then choose all present tense. If you chose “started”, then all the verbs should be past tense.

Coherence: Repeat key words

- Key words – words that name ideas related to your topic – should be repeated.
- How often to repeat the key words is up to you. There is no exact number.
- If it is possible for the reader to become confused, repeat the key word instead of using a pronoun or leaving it out.

Coherence: Repeat key words

Soccer brings people together in many ways. It is played in almost every country, so people all over the world know about it. When strangers meet, they can talk about it or play it together. The World Cup is a tournament watched by people all over the world. Then, people can see the teams from other countries and learn about them. In this way, it helps people see more of the world and understand other people.

Coherence: Repeat key words

Soccer brings people together in many ways. **Soccer** is played in almost every country, so people all over the world know about it. When strangers meet, they can talk about **soccer** or play it together. The World Cup is a **soccer** tournament watched by people all over the world. **During the World Cup** people can see **soccer** teams from other countries and learn about **those countries**. In this way, **soccer** helps people see more of the world and understand other people.

Unity and coherence

- Make your paragraph unified. Make sure all of the sentences relate to the topic sentence.
- Make your paragraph coherent. Show how each sentence relates to the other sentences.
 - Use a logical order.
 - Add transition signals.
 - Use consistent verb tense.
 - Repeat key words.