Coherence & Cohesion

This is a vital feature of writing – manage this effectively and your readers task becomes much easier – that would be a sign of excellent coherence & cohesion.

Coherence

The key to effective coherence is planning – spending a few minutes planning your IELTS writing highly recommended. Consider this example of organising ideas:

Paragraphs give structure to a piece of writing. Express one idea or set of ideas in each paragraph. Sum that theme in the first sentence of each paragraph – these become topic sentences. The remainder of the paragraph can be supporting explanations, evidence, or examples. A simple recipe for effective paragraphs – I-E-E (idea, explain, examples).

Examples of Cohesive Devices

Adding similar ideas “in addition…”, “another reason is…”, “equally…”

Contrasting ideas “in contrast…”, “on the other hand…”, “on the contrary…” “although…”

Giving examples or evidence “for example…”, “for instance…”, “to illustrate this…”

Explaining results “as a result…”, “for this reason…”, “consequently…”

Sequencing “firstly…”, “secondly…”, “next…”, “to begin with…”

Providing explanations “owing to…”, “because of…”, “due to…”

Drawing conclusions “in conclusion…”, “to sum up…”, “in conclusion…”

Introducing your opinion “in my opinion…”, “to my mind…”, “it seems to me that…”

Cohesion does not only come from linking devices, there are other methods of creating cohesion:

For Instance through Referencing by using Pronouns:

“Finally, I am very happy to receive this award. Additionally, I would like to thank my colleagues, without them I wouldn’t be standing here accepting this.”

Using Substitution

“Famous people deserve a private life. Celebrities also sell newspapers.”

Improving your Coherence & Cohesion

Practice, Review, Think…

Additional Resources...

For more information, please see the other Writing Test videos:

Task Achievement, Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range and Accuracy.

Look out for other videos & downloads on IELTS Speaking & Writing.