

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the page, framing a central white area. The shapes are composed of triangles and polygons, creating a modern, layered effect.

# Unit 2

Creating Coherence

# INTRODUCTION

- ▶ Coherence literally means ‘to stick together’
- ▶ Coherence in writing means that all the ideas in it flow smoothly from one sentence to the next sentence; from one paragraph to the next paragraph; from one module to the next module and so on
- ▶ In a coherent writing, each sentence relates clearly to the topic sentence or central idea
- ▶ An incoherent writing can inhibit a reader’s ability to understand its ideas and main points

## Coherence in Paragraphs



### Poor coherence

*The industry has many advantages. It can draw on a great deal of research. It can also export products to key trading partners. It has significant growth potential in the medium to long term. Workers within this industry need training. It is important to keep staff up-to-date with software used in this industry.*

### Strong coherence

*The industry has many advantages. It can draw on a great deal of research, **particularly in terms of** strategies used for entering new markets. **While** there is significant growth potential in the medium to long term, **it is clear that** workers within this sector need training. **Therefore,** it is important to keep staff up-to-date with software used in this **industry**.*

# Methods to Achieve Coherence

- ▶ Following are several methods that can be used to achieve coherence in writing:
  - ▶ Use Repetition to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs
  - ▶ Use Transitional Expressions to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs
  - ▶ Use Pronouns to Link Sentences
  - ▶ Use Synonyms to Link Ideas and Create Variety
  - ▶ Use Parallel Structures to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs
  - ▶ Use consistence in point of view, verb tense, and number

## 1) Use Repetition to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs

- ▶ Repeating key words or phrases helps connect and focus idea(s) throughout the essay. Repetition also helps the reader remain focused and headed in the right direction.
- ▶ Example: Most students are intimidated by the works of **William Shakespeare**. They believe **Shakespeare's** sonnets and plays are far too complicated to read and understand.

## 2) Use Transitional Expressions to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs

- ▶ Transitional expressions, such as *however*, *because*, *therefore*, and *in addition*, are used to establish relationships between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs. They serve as signals to let the reader know the previous idea, sentence, or paragraph is connected to what follows.
- ▶ Example: Many students believe they cannot write a good essay **because** they are not writers. **However**, as they practice writing and work on developing their writing skills, most students are able to gain the needed confidence to start thinking of themselves as writers.

## 3) Use Pronouns to Link Sentences

- ▶ Pronouns are used to link or connect sentences by referring to preceding nouns and pronouns. Pronouns can also help create paragraphs that are easy to read by eliminating wordiness and unnecessary repetition.
- ▶ Example: Mr Thompson agreed to meet with members of the worker's union before **he** signed the contract. **He** was interested in hearing **their** concerns about the new insurance plan.

#### 4) Use Synonyms to Link Ideas and Create Variety

- ▶ Synonyms are words that have the same or nearly the same meaning as another word. They provide alternative word choices that can add variety to an essay and can help eliminate unnecessary repetition.
- ▶ Example: **Teenagers** face an enormous amount of peer pressure from friends and schoolmates. As a result, many **young adults** are exhibiting signs of severe stress or depression at an early age.

#### 5) Use Parallel Structures to Link Ideas, Sentences, and Paragraphs

- ▶ Parallelism is the use of matching words, phrases, clauses, or sentence structures to express similar ideas. Parallel structures allow the reader to flow smoothly from one idea, sentence, or paragraph to the next and to understand the relationships and connections between ideas.
- ▶ Example: Usually, the children spend the summer weekends **playing** ball in park, **swimming** in the neighbor's pool, **eating** ice cream under the tree, or **camping** in the backyard.
- ▶ At the museum, the class **attended a lecture where the speaker demonstrated** how the Native Americans made bows and arrows. They also **attended a lecture where a sword smith demonstrated** how the Vikings crafted swords.

## 6) Use consistence in point of view, verb tense, and number

- ▶ Consistency in point of view, verb tense, and number are subtle but important aspects of coherence. If you shift from the more personal *you* to the impersonal *one*, from past to present tense, or from *a man* to *they*, for example, you make your paragraph less coherent. Such inconsistencies can also confuse your reader and make your argument more difficult to follow.

# Some Useful Transitions

## ▶ To show addition

- ▶ again, and, also, besides, equally important, first (second, etc.), further, furthermore, in addition, in the first place, moreover, next, too

## ▶ To give examples

- ▶ for example, for instance, in fact, specifically, that is, to illustrate

## ▶ To compare

- ▶ although, and yet, at the same time, but, despite, even though, however, in contrast, in spite of, nevertheless, on the contrary, on the other hand, still, though, yet

## ▶ To summarize or conclude

- ▶ all in all, in conclusion, in other words, in short, in summary, on the whole, that is, therefore, to sum up

## ▶ To show time

- ▶ after, afterward, as long as, as soon as, at last, before, during, earlier, finally, formerly, immediately, later, meanwhile, next, since, shortly, subsequently, then, thereafter, until, when, while

## ▶ To show place or direction

- ▶ above, below, beyond, close, elsewhere, farther on, here, nearby, opposite, to the left (north, etc.)

## ▶ To indicate logical relationship

- ▶ accordingly, as a result, because, consequently, for this reason, hence, if, otherwise, since, so, then, therefore, thus