

LECTURE 4

Unity and Coherence

(الوحدة والتماسك)

Unity:

An important element of a good paragraph is unity. Unity means that a paragraph discusses one and only one main idea from beginning to end. For example, if your paragraph is about the advantages of owning a compact car, discuss only that. Do not discuss the disadvantages. Furthermore, discuss only one advantage, such as gas economy, in each paragraph.

تعتبر الوحدة عنصراً هاماً في الفقرة. وتعني أن تتمحور الفقرة حول فكرة رئيسية واحدة من البداية إلى النهاية. مثلاً إذا أردت أن تتحدث عن مزايا امتلاك سيارة فعليك ألا تذكر عيوبها. وعليك أيضاً أن تختار ميزة واحدة فقط لتتحدث عنها.

If you begin to discuss another advantage, start a new paragraph. Sometimes it is possible to discuss more than one aspect of the same idea in one paragraph if they are closely related to each other. For example, you could discuss gas economy and low maintenance costs in the same paragraph because they are closely related, but you should not discuss both gas economy and easier parking in the same paragraph because they are not closely related.

إذا أردت أن تناقش ميزة أخرى فعليك البدء في كتابة فقرة جديدة. أحياناً يكون من الممكن أن تناقش أكثر من فكرة في نفس الفقرة ولكن بشرط أن تكون قريبة من بعضها ومتشابهة وتندرج تحت نفس التصنيف.

The second part of unity is that every supporting sentence must directly explain or prove the main idea. For example, in a paragraph about the high cost of prescription drugs in the United States, you could mention buying drugs from pharmacies outside the United States as an alternative, but if you write several sentences about buying drugs outside the United States, you are getting off the topic, and your paragraph will not have unity.

أيضاً الوحدة تعني أن تكون كل جملة داعمة وموضحة بشكل مباشر لفكرتك الرئيسية.

Both of the following paragraphs break the rule of unity because they contain one or more sentences that are off the topic.

Step 1 Locate and underline the topic sentence of each paragraph.

Step 2 Cross out the sentence or sentences that are off the topic.

كلتا الفقرتين التاليتين تعتبر كاسرة للقاعدة التي تُحقق الوحدة. لأنها احتوت على جملة (أو أكثر) خارج الموضوع.
1- حدد جملة الموضوع وضع خطأً تحتها، 2- اشطب على الجملة الخارجة عن الموضوع.

Paragraph 1

Adventure travel is the hot trend in the tourism industry. Ordinary people are no longer content to spend their two weeks away from the office resting on a sunny beach in Florida. More and more often, they are choosing to spend their vacations rafting down wild rivers, hiking through steamy rain forests, climbing the world's highest mountains, or crossing slippery glaciers. People of all ages are choosing educational study tours for their vacations.



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سبب استبعاد الجملة الخارجة عن الموضوع أن الجولات التعليمية لا علاقة لها برحلات المغامرة.

Paragraph 2

Daredevil sports are also becoming popular. Young people especially are increasingly willing to risk life and limb while mountain biking, backcountry snowboarding, or high-speed skateboarding. Soccer is also popular in the United States now, although football is still more popular. One of the riskiest new sports is skysurfing, in which people jump out of airplanes with boards attached to their feet. Skysurfing rivals skydiving and bungee jumping for the amount of thrills and risk.



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سبب استبعاد الجملة الخارجة عن الموضوع أن كرة القدم أو السوكر لا تعتبر من الرياضات الخطرة.

Coherence

Another element of a good paragraph is coherence. The Latin verb *cohere* means "hold together." For coherence in writing, the sentences must hold together; that is, the movement from one sentence to the next must be logical and smooth. There must be no sudden jumps. Each sentence should flow smoothly into the next one.

التماسك عنصر هام في الفقرة. والكلمة مأخوذة من الفعل اللاتيني الذي يعني "يضمُّ معاً". بمعنى أن يكون الانتقال من جملة إلى أخرى منطقي ومتسق، لا يجب أن تكون هناك قفزات مفاجئة. كل جملة يجب أن تتبع الجملة التي تليها بسلاسة.

There are four ways to achieve coherence:

1. Repeat key nouns.
2. Use consistent pronouns.
3. Use transition signals to link ideas.
4. Arrange your ideas in logical order.

يتحقق التماسك بأربع طرق. في هذه المحاضرة سيُذكر 1 + 2 فقط.

Repetition of key nouns

The easiest way to achieve coherence is to repeat key nouns frequently in your paragraph. Read the model paragraph about gold to see how it uses this technique to smooth the flow of sentences. The key noun in this paragraph is gold.

تكرار الأسماء الرئيسية، وهو أسهل طريقة لتحقيق التماسك. يجب أن تكرر الاسم (أحياناً) بدل أن تكتفي بالإشارة له من خلال الضمائر.

Paragraph with Coherence

Gold

¹Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. ²First of all, gold has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. ³Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. ⁴Gold never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. ⁵For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. ⁶Another important characteristic of gold is its usefulness to industry and science. ⁷For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. ⁸The most recent use of gold is in astronauts' suits. ⁹Astronauts wear gold-plated heat shields for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. ¹⁰In conclusion, gold is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

There is no fixed rule about how often to repeat key nouns or when to substitute pronouns. You should repeat a key noun instead of using a pronoun when the meaning is not clear. Throughout the following

paragraph, the word gold has been replaced by pronouns, making the paragraph much less coherent.

ليس هناك قاعدة ثابتة للمرات التي يجب فيها التصريح بالاسم بدل الضمير. ولكن يجب أن نذكر الاسم عندما لا يكون المعنى واضحاً بالضمير. لاحظ في المثال التالي في قطعة الذهب استبدلنا كلمة الذهب (الاسم) بالضمير الذي يعود عليه ولكن المقال أصبح يفتقر إلى التماسك والوضوح

Paragraph without Coherence

Gold

Gold, a precious metal, is prized for two important characteristics. First of all, it has a lustrous beauty that is resistant to corrosion. Therefore, it is suitable for jewelry, coins, and ornamental purposes. It never needs to be polished and will remain beautiful forever. For example, a Macedonian coin remains as untarnished today as the day it was made 25 centuries ago. Another of its important characteristics is its usefulness to industry and science. For many years, it has been used in hundreds of industrial applications, such as photography and dentistry. Its most recent use is in astronauts' suits. Astronauts wear heat shields made from it for protection when they go outside spaceships in space. In conclusion, it is treasured not only for its beauty but also for its utility.

Consistent Pronouns

When you use pronouns, make sure that you use the same person and number throughout your paragraph. Don't change from you to he or she (change of person) or from he to they (change of number). Notice the changes the writer made for consistency in the following example.

Students Know have
A student who knows a few Latin and Greek roots and prefixes has an
students do not
advantage over a student who does not know them. They can often guess the
students
meaning of new words. If, for example, you know that the prefix *omni* means
they
"all," you have a better chance of guessing the meanings of words such as
students Know
omnibus, *omnipresent*, and *omnidirectional*. Furthermore, a student who knows
that the root *sci-* comes from *scire*, "to know," can guess that *omniscient* means
"all-knowing."

ملاءمة الضمائر.

عندما تستخدم ضميراً تأكد من أنك تُتبعه بالشخص والعدد المناسبين له.