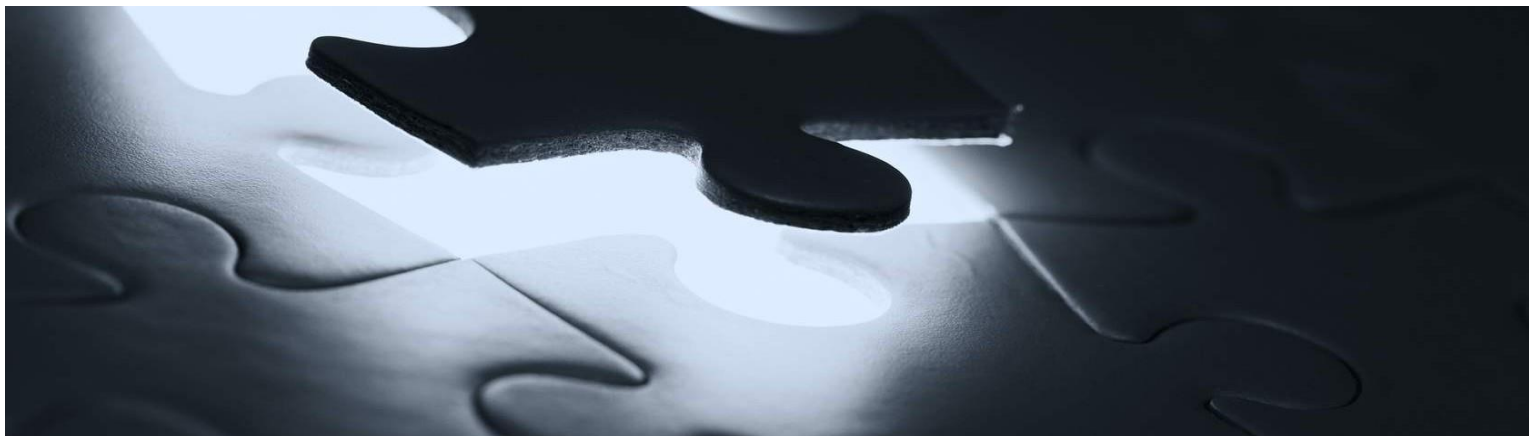




LEAP Online

Learning Excellence Achievement Pathway Online Tutorial



Academic Cohesion

LEAP Online

Academic Writing (Level 2)

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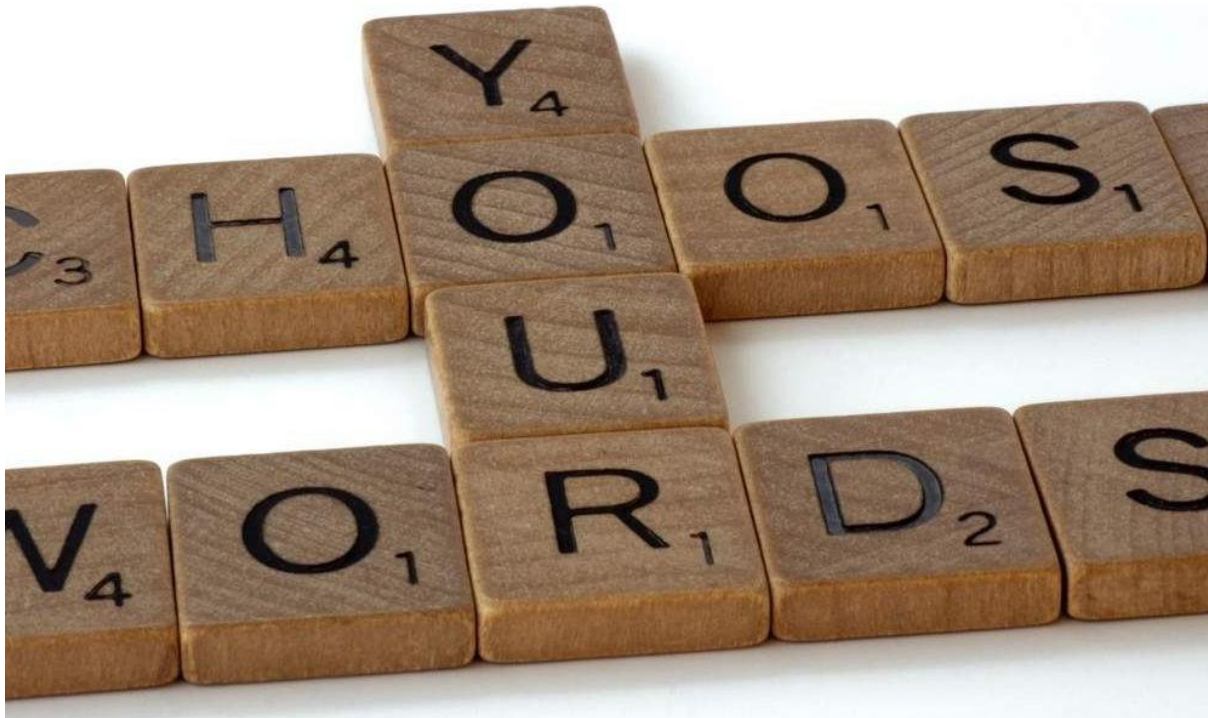
Introduction

So far this LEAP Online section has introduced you to academic writing, planning your assignment, how to begin your first draft and paraphrasing. To support you with drafting your assignment, it is important to consider how the different sections of your assignment are connected together. This is known as cohesion. This word comes from the verb 'cohere', which means stick together. Successful cohesion is achieved by using number of methods, such as:

- Lexical cohesion
- Reference words and phrases Substitution
- Ellipsis
- Transition signals

Let's take a look at each method in turn.

Method 1: Lexical Cohesion



According to Mahlberg (2006) lexical cohesion plays a significant role in academic writing as it affects how text is read and the clarity of the writer's argument. You should familiarise yourself with lexical cohesion devices and, more importantly, understand how to use them in your academic writing. Some examples of lexical cohesion devices include:

Repetition

Repeating words or ideas, albeit using different words, will allow you to achieve academic cohesion in your writing. Synonyms are a good way to change words that have the same or nearly the same meaning. Be careful though – some synonyms may not be appropriate and may change specific terminology.

See the '[Paraphrasing](#)' tutorial of this LEAP Online section for more information on synonyms.

Anamorphic (shell nouns)

Shell nouns are abstract nouns. They may also be known as signalling or anaphoric nouns. These are useful to help summarise the meaning of preceding or succeeding text.

Some useful academic anaphoric nouns that will support your academic writing include:

- Characteristics
- Method
- Feature
- Fact
- Result
- Purpose
- Tendency
- Trend
- Details
- Information

Let's take a look at some examples.

Preceding example

'An increasing number of students are attending the University of Bolton. This trend has resulted in the implementation of significant support for students.'

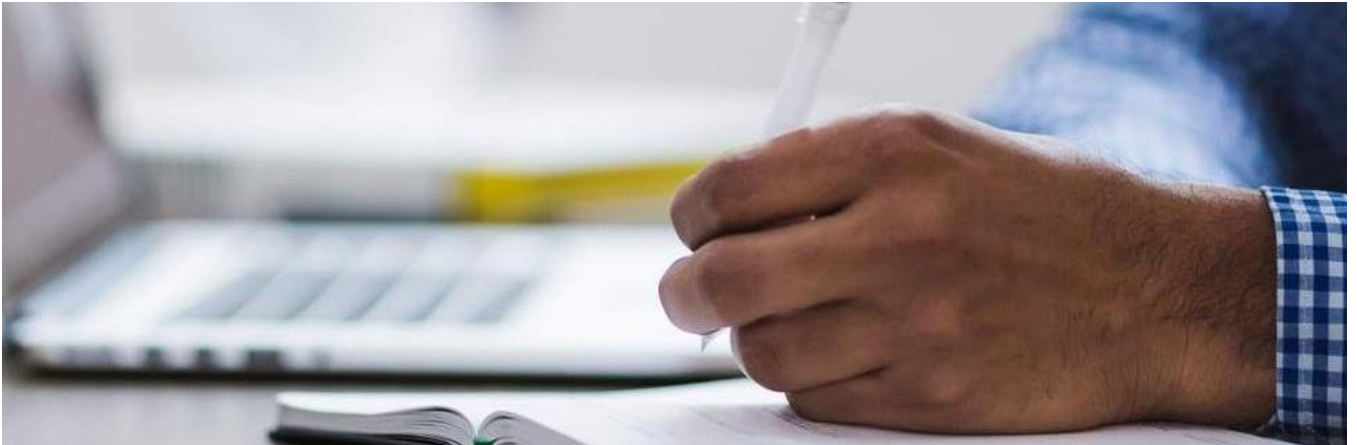
The word '**trend**' helps the writer to refer back to the idea presented in the first sentence.

Succeeding example

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods.
The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is
reference words and phrases. The third method is substitution.
The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals.'

The word '**methods**' helps the writer to summarise information that appears later in the text.

Method 2: Reference Words and Phrases



Reference words or phrases help the writer to refer to a point which is usually mentioned in the preceding part of the text. Reference words typically include pronouns, such as 'it,' 'this' and 'these.'

Example

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third method is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals. '

If we study the example, the reference word, 'these' has been used by the writer.

Method 3: Substitution



Refers to the process in which words are replaced for one or more words used earlier in the text. Common reference words include: 'one,' 'do' and 'this.' This is technique will help you to avoid repetition.

Example

Original text.

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third method is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals.'

Substitution.

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third one is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals.'

If we study the substitution example above, the writer has used the word 'one' to replace the phrase "method" in the original text.

Method 4: Ellipsis



This is the process in which the writer leaves out one or more words because the meaning is clear from the context. In the below example, the writer has included an example of ellipsis by using the phrase 'the fourth is.' Let's take a look.

Example

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third one is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals.'

'The fourth is,' means 'the fourth [method] is.' The writer has chosen to omit 'method' from the text but the meaning is still clear.

Method 5: Transition Signals



Transition signals help to signal the relationship between ideas. Allowing the reader to preview what is to follow on your assignment and helps to create structure. It is helpful to think of your academic writing as a roadmap, whereby the reader must be able to get from Point A to Point B (or from one idea to the next and so on).

Therefore, your writing must be easy to follow. If it isn't, the reader will get lost, and you risk losing valuable marks. It is also helpful to include transition statements, which help the reader move from one topic to another.

Some general transition words and phrases include:

Usage	Transition Words/Phrases
To add more information to your point:	Additionally Furthermore Moreover
To compare similar points:	Similarly In comparison Likewise Equally Aligned with

To show contrasting viewpoints:	<p>However</p> <p>Conversely</p> <p>In contrast</p> <p>Whereas</p> <p>Alternatively</p> <p>Contrastingly</p>
To conclude your point:	<p>Therefore</p> <p>Consequently</p> <p>As a result</p> <p>Overall</p>
To add emphasis to your point:	<p>Significantly</p> <p>Particularly</p> <p>Specifically</p> <p>To emphasise</p> <p>Surprisingly</p>

Let's take a look to see how transition signals are used in text. In the below example, the transition signals are underlined.

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third one is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals.'

The writer can now go one step further and include a transition statement, which lets the reader know they are about to move onto a new topic. For example:

'Successful cohesion is achieved by using a number of methods. The first of these is lexical cohesion, the second key method is reference words and phrases. The third one is substitution. The fourth is ellipsis and the final key method is transition signals. So far, this assignment has focused on cohesion. The following section will focus on...'

Summary



Hopefully, this module provided you with a valuable insight into academic cohesion. Remember, consider your piece of academic writing as a roadmap, in which you need to help navigate the reader from one idea to the next. Use academic cohesion to make sure your writing is clear and easy to follow.

Where to go to next

Before you leave, select the button below to complete a short assessment and earn your LEAP Online digital badge.

Once you have completed the assessment, close the tab, return to the 'Academic Writing - Level 2' LEAP Online section and begin the next tutorial.

Digital Badge

Before you leave, select the button below to complete a short assessment and earn your LEAP Online digital badge.

Academic Writing: Academic Cohesion

[Moodle assessment](#)



For more support on this topic, consider attending a free workshop at [LEAP Live](#).

Reference List

Mahlberg, M. (2006) *Lexical cohesion: Corpus linguistic theory and its application in English language teaching*. International Journal of Corpus Linguistics. 11(3), pp. 363-383.