



IELTS Writing Community

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Lecture 13 Referencing: Avoid Repetition Using Pronouns

Referencing / Coherence and Cohesion

Coherence and Cohesion			
Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression • makes inadequate, inaccurate or over use of cohesive devices • may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution • may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression • uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical • may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately • uses paragraphing, but not always logically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout • uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use • presents a clear central topic within each paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately

Source: British Council

Referencing / Coherence and Cohesion

Referencing is when you refer back to something you stated earlier without having to **constantly repeat** it. **You can do this by using pronouns, (they, them, this, their, it, these..)**

There is **a false belief** among many IELTS students (and IELTS teachers) that you should never repeat words.

You can repeat some words **as long as it is not done too much**, obviously you have to vary your vocabulary and grammar wherever possible, however, **sometimes it is hard to find a good synonym or paraphrase.**

Types of Referencing

The **perspectives** offered by this research are unique in that **they** allow an insight into the workings of the criminal mind.

Although **the study** was conducted some time ago, **its** on-going relevance cannot be doubted.

The study found that the health of the newborn was intimately connected with the health of the mother. **Such** studies are crucial to understanding of the pre-natal life of infants.

Those researchers who have investigated the **issue in detail** have uniformly found maternal diet to be an important factor in the health of newborns.

The personal pronoun ***they*** makes reference to the previous noun phrase ***the perspectives***.

The pronoun ***its*** refers back to ***the study***— a singular pronoun.

The pronoun ***such*** is a general reference, pointing to studies of the particular kind being discussed, including ***the study*** in this sentence.

The pronoun ***those*** points forward to a description of the researchers i.e. the researchers who ***have investigated the issue in detail***.

Using Relative Pronouns for Referencing

You can also use relative pronouns to join sentences, these make relative clauses.

Words like: **who / that / which / when / where... For example,**

1. In some countries the government invests a lot of money in public transportation. **Investing money in public transportation** leads to less cars on the road and helps to reduce CO2 emissions..
2. In some countries the government invests a lot of money in public transportation. **This** leads to less cars on the road and helps to reduce CO2 emissions.
3. In some countries the government invests a lot of money in public transportation, **which** leads to less cars on the road and helps to reduce CO2 emissions.

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