

AET-127 Writing Skills & Vocabulary

Week 3 – Paragraph Structure

Topic Sentences • Supporting Details • Unity & Coherence

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Part 1. Connecting Devices in Academic Writing

Connecting devices (also called linking words, transitions, or cohesive devices) help writers organize ideas logically and smoothly. They show relationships between sentences and ensure coherence in a paragraph.

Function / Meaning	Common Devices	Alternative Expressions	Example in Use
Addition	and, also, moreover, furthermore, in addition, besides	what is more, as well as, plus	Translators need strong language skills; moreover, they must understand cultural context.
Contrast / Opposition	but, however, yet, nevertheless, on the other hand, although, whereas	in contrast, even though, despite, while	The text is short; however, it conveys deep emotion.
Comparison / Similarity	similarly, likewise, in the same way	equally, just as, correspondingly	Similarly, the Turkish proverb has a parallel meaning in English.
Result / Consequence	so, therefore, as a result, consequently, thus, hence	for this reason, accordingly, that's why	The translator misread the word; therefore, the sentence lost its meaning.
Reason / Cause	because, since, as, due to, owing to	in view of, considering that, on account of	Because the client changed the deadline, the translator had to work overnight.

Purpose	to, in order to, so as to, for the purpose of	with the aim of, so that	She used glossaries in order to maintain consistency.
Example / Illustration	for example, for instance, such as, namely	to illustrate, particularly, especially	Some idioms, for instance, cannot be translated literally.
Time / Sequence	first, then, next, after that, finally, before, meanwhile	later, subsequently, at last	First, the translator reads the text; then, they identify key terms.
Emphasis	indeed, in fact, above all, especially, particularly	most importantly, notably, it should be noted that	In fact, meaning is more important than word-for-word translation.
Condition	if, unless, provided that, in case, as long as	on condition that, whether or not	If the translator understands context, accuracy improves.
Concession	although, even though, though, while, whereas	despite, in spite of	Although the film was complex, the subtitles were clear.
Summary / Conclusion	in conclusion, to sum up, in brief, in short, overall	all in all, to summarize, ultimately	In conclusion, coherence is essential in professional writing.

Practice 1: Identifying Connectors

Read the following sentences and underline the connecting device in each.

1. The translation is accurate; however, it lacks emotional impact.
2. In addition, machine translation tools save time.
3. Although it was a short film, the subtitles required much effort.
4. First, the translator analyzes tone; then, they choose vocabulary.
5. Therefore, cultural awareness is essential in all translation types.

Practice 2: Using Alternatives

Rewrite the following sentences using a different connector with the same meaning.

1. The translator was tired; so, she made mistakes. →
2. The text was complex; however, he finished on time. →
3. The phrase was clear; for example, students understood easily. →
4. In conclusion, teamwork improves translation quality. →
5. The translator checked every line; finally, she submitted the file. →

Part 2. Paragraph Practice: Structure, Unity, Coherence

Paragraph A – Topic Sentence Identification

Translating humor is one of the most challenging tasks for translators. Many jokes rely on wordplay, cultural references, or idiomatic expressions that may not exist in the target language. For example, an English pun based on double meanings rarely has an exact equivalent in Turkish. Therefore, the translator often needs to recreate the same humorous effect using different words or even a different image. This requires not only linguistic skill but also cultural sensitivity and creativity.

Task: Underline the topic sentence and circle three supporting details.

Paragraph B – Unity Practice

Machine translation tools have become essential in the modern translation industry. They help translators work faster by suggesting possible translations for repeated or technical phrases. Additionally, they assist in maintaining consistency across long documents. Some people even use them for everyday tasks, such as translating emails or short messages. However, many translators also enjoy gardening or photography as hobbies.

Task: Identify and remove the sentence that breaks unity. Rewrite the paragraph to keep one clear focus.

Paragraph C – Coherence Practice

The process of editing a translated text requires attention to both meaning and style. First, the translator must reread the target text carefully to ensure it reflects the source message accurately. Then, grammatical errors, awkward phrasing, or unnatural expressions must be corrected. Finally, the translator checks for overall flow and readability. By following these steps in order, the translator produces a polished and professional text.

Task: Highlight the transition words that create coherence. Add one more where appropriate.

Paragraph D – Supporting Details

Effective translators must have a strong command of vocabulary. They need to recognize different registers of language—formal, neutral, or informal—and choose the right words for each context. For instance, a legal document requires precise and technical terms, while a literary translation allows more expressive vocabulary. Without sufficient lexical

knowledge, translators may produce inaccurate or flat translations that lose the author's tone and style.

Task: Identify the topic sentence and list the types of supporting details used (examples, contrasts, explanations, etc.).

Paragraph E – Coherence (Sequencing Practice)

Sentences (mixed order):

1. Translators must adapt cultural references to make them understandable for the target audience.
2. Cultural adaptation plays a key role in translation.
3. This process is known as “localization” and requires deep knowledge of both cultures.
4. For example, translating a Turkish proverb literally into English might confuse readers, so the translator replaces it with an equivalent English saying.

Task: Reorder the sentences to form a coherent paragraph. Identify the topic sentence and supporting sentences.

Paragraph Writing Task

Write your own paragraph (6–8 sentences) on one of the following topics:

- Why translation is both a science and an art.
- The importance of vocabulary knowledge for translators.
- Challenges of subtitling for different audiences.