

Typical errors with cohesive devices

Label the mistakes with cohesive devices below with **G for a grammar mistake** (e.g. a punctuation mistake) and **M for the wrong meaning**. If the meaning seems to be okay it must be a grammar mistake, and if the grammar seems to be okay then it must be a problem with the meaning.

1. There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss, however, this rarely happens.
2. Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. On the contrary, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.
3. Latin American countries are often deeply divided. Because the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.
4. There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing. For example, globalisation.
5. There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. And, it will help future generations.
6. The original research left several important questions unanswered, therefore, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
7. This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and at last, student motivation.
8. This essay will look at three major reasons for deforestation in Southeast Asia. At first, I will describe trends in domestic use of wood over the last thirty years and its impact on local forests.
9. In conclusion, we have shown above that there is a large overall rise in consumption of detergents despite rising knowledge of their harm to the environment.

Check the categories of errors with your teacher and then correct them. Most can be corrected in more than one way.

Use the list below to help you check and expand your answers above. All of the expressions below are correct with the punctuation given, but they might not fit in the sentences. There is usually more than one correct option for each sentence above.

- ... also...
- Although.....
- (,) and...
- As.....
- At the end,...
- ... because.../ Because..., ...
- , but...
- (,) due to...
- , e.g....
- Examples include...
- Finally,...
- First of all,...
- First,...
- Firstly,...
- , for example...
- , for instance...
- For this reason,...
- Furthermore,...
- . However,.../ ..., however,...
- In addition,...
- In brief,...
- In contrast,...
- In the end,...
- In short,...
- , including...
- Last of all,...
- Lastly,...
- Moreover,...
- Nevertheless,...
- Nonetheless,...
- On the other hand,...
- One example (of this) is...
- One reason for this is that...
- Since...../ ..., since...
- , so...
- , such as...
- Therefore,...
- This is because...
- This, however,...
- Thus,...
- To sum up,.../ To summarise,...
- , whereas...
- While...../ ..., while...

Suggested answers

1. Grammar mistake

- There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss (,) but this rarely happens.
- There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss. However, this rarely happens.
- There are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss. This, however, rarely happens.
- Although there are many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss, this rarely happens.
- Despite many good reasons for allowing employees to choose their own boss, this rarely happens.

NOT *On the other hand/ whereas/ in contrast/ on the contrary X*

2. Wrong meaning

- Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. However/ On the other hand, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.
- Although Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth, it might be good for Japan's overcrowded cities and overburdened infrastructure.

NOT *whereas/ in contrast X*

3. Grammar mistake

- Latin American countries are often deeply divided because the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.
- Because/ As/ Since the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights, Latin American countries are often deeply divided.
- Latin American countries are often deeply divided. This is because/ One reason for this is that the indigenous people have never really gained equal rights.
- Latin American countries are often deeply divided due to the indigenous people never having really gained equal rights.
- Indigenous people have never really gained equal rights. For this reason, Latin American countries are often deeply divided.

4. Grammar mistake

- There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing. One example (of this) is globalisation.
- There are many reasons why the number of temporary positions is increasing, for example/ for instance/ e.g./ such as/ including globalisation.

NOT *Examples include X*

5. Grammar mistake

- There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today(,) and it will help future generations.
- There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. Furthermore/ In addition, it will help future generations.

NOT *Nevertheless/ Nonetheless* X **PROBABLY NOT** *Moreover* X

6. Grammar mistake

- The original research left several important questions unanswered, so we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- The original research left several important questions unanswered. Therefore, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- Because the original research left several important questions unanswered, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- The original research left several important questions unanswered. We therefore also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.
- The original research left several important questions unanswered. For this reason, we also conducted individual interviews with five participants in the original survey.

NOT *Thus* X **PROBABLY NOT** *So,...*

7. Wrong meaning

- This essay will look at three advantages of teaching other subjects in a second language: firstly, reinforcement of the subject content; secondly, efficient use of limited classroom time; and finally/ lastly/ last of all, student motivation.

NOT *at the end/ in the end* X

8. Wrong meaning

- This essay will look at three major reasons for deforestation in Southeast Asia. First/ First of all/ Firstly, I will describe trends in domestic use of wood over the last thirty years and its impact on local forests.

9. Wrong meaning

- To sum up/ To summarise, we have shown above that there is a large overall rise in consumption of detergents despite rising knowledge of their harm to the environment.

PROBABLY NOT *In brief/ In short*