



Part Three The Sentence

Effective Sentences (1)



Lecturer: Tang Kai



Contents



Unity

Coherence



Unity

- **Unity requires that all the sentence elements composing a sentence, all the sentences composing a paragraph, all the paragraphs composing an essay bear directly on the one main idea-the theme.**



Unity

Faulty: Mom told me that there was always traffic jam and our car was a little bit too old and we need buy a new one.

Improved: Mom told me that there was always heavy traffic, and as our car was a bit old and couldn't run fast, we'd better buy a new one.





Unity

- ❖ **Faulty:** Being an honest man, Mr. Wang worked very hard.
- ❖ **Improved:** Being an honest man, Mr. Wang never tells a lie to his students.



Unity

- ❖ **Faulty:** The lectures were very interesting, and I was greatly absorbed, and when I got home, I found that my key was left in the classroom.
- ❖ **Improved:** I was greatly absorbed in the interesting lectures but when I got home I found that my key was left in the classroom.



Unity

- ❖ **Faulty:** On my way back from school I met an old friend, and as we had not seen each other for nearly a year, we stopped by the roads and talked, but in a little while it began to rain, and so we had to say goodbye.
- ❖ **Improved:** On my way back from school I met an old friend. As we had not seen each other for nearly a year, we stopped by the roads and talked. In a little while it began to rain. We had to say goodbye.



Coherence

- ❖ **Coherence requires that the train of thoughts flows smoothly in a logical sequence in a sentence, from sentence to sentence, from paragraph to paragraph.**



Coherence

❖ Ambiguous Reference of Pronouns

Faulty: Mary was friendly to my sister because she wanted her to be her bridesmaid.

Improved: Mary was friendly to my sister because she wanted my sister to be her bridesmaid.

Faulty: We can also know the society by serving it yourself.

Improved: We can also know society by serving it ourselves.

Faulty: Although it is very hot by the Thousand Island Lake, it looks inviting.

Improved: Although it is very hot by the Thousand Island Lake, the water looks inviting.



Coherence

❖ Dangling Modifiers

Faulty: At the age of ten, my grandfather died.

Improved: When I was ten, my grandfather died.

Faulty: To do well in college, good grades are essential.

Improved: To do well in college, a student needs good grades.

Faulty: To succeed in business, a responsible job must be held.

Improved: A responsible job must be held to succeed in business.

Faulty: Through signing my name, a legal commitment was made.

Improved: Through signing my name, I made a legal commitment.

Faulty: The papers grew heavier while delivering them.

Improved: The papers grew heavier as I delivered them



Coherence

❖ Misplaced Modifiers

Faulty: I believe I can do it well and I will better know the world outside the campus.

Improved: I believe I can do it well and I will know the world outside the campus better.

Faulty: He said yesterday morning the breakfast was a success.

Improved: He said the breakfast yesterday morning was a success.

Faulty: Romeo received word that Juliet was dead from another messenger.

Improved: Romeo received word from another messenger that Juliet was dead.



Coherence

❖ Disagreement

Faulty: When one has money ,he can do what he want to .

Improved: Once one has money ,he can do what he wants (to do)

Faulty: There are many ways we get to know the outside world.

Improved: There are many ways for us to learn about the outside world.

Improved: There are many ways through which we can become acquainted with the outside world.



Coherence

❖ subject concord

Faulty: When I came back at midnight, you saw the light in his room was still on.

Improved: When I came back at midnight, I saw the light in his room was still on.





Coherence

❖ person concord

Faulty: Every student must hand in their paper by the end of the term.

Improved: Every student must hand in his paper by the end of the term.





Coherence

❖ tense agreement

Faulty: The professor has worked in the university for over ten years and publishes many books.

Improved: The professor has worked in the university for over ten years and (has) published many books.





Coherence

❖ Voice agreement

Faulty: Great changes have taken place in China since the reform was begun in 1979.

Improved: Great changes have taken place in China since the reform began in 1979.



Coherence

❖ agreement of gender and number

Faulty: One should not predict the future, for things are uncertain in many circumstances.

Improved: One should not predict the future, which may not be certain in many circumstances.



Coherence

- ❖ Coherence of sentence structure : using coordinating conjunctions and subordinating conjunctions
- ❖ **transitions of addition:** in addition, what is more, moreover, furthermore, also, then, besides, ...
- ❖ **transitions of contrast:** however, nevertheless, on the other hand, on the contrary,
- ❖ **transitions of sequence:** on the one hand, ...on the other hand; first, second, third, finally, ...
- ❖ **transitions of emphasis:** in fact, indeed, actually, as a matter of fact, obviously, apparently, evidently; first of all; undoubtedly,...
- ❖ **transitions of cause and effect:** therefore, as a result, then, consequently, thus, accordingly, ...
- ❖ **transitions of summary:** in brief, in a word, in conclusion, in short, therefore, ...
- ❖ **transitions of illustration:** for example, for instance, ...





Thank You !

