



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 vice versa.

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 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.



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 above. Some are also rare in academic writing. There is usually more than one correct option for each sentence above).

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



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Suggested answers

1. G - 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.

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

2. M - 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.
- Japan's shrinking working age population will almost certainly reduce economic growth. 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



3. G - 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. G - 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

5. G - 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, it will help future generations.
 - There are many positive effects of this policy on the poor people of today. In addition, it will help future generations.

NOT Moreover/ Nevertheless/ Nonetheless



6. G - The original research left several important questions unanswered, so 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 PROBABLY NOT So,...

7. M - 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, student motivation.
- 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 lastly, student motivation.
 - 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 last of all, student motivation.

NOT at the end/ in the end

8. M - 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. M - To sum up/ To summarise, we have shown 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