

Pronouns and Determiners (Cohesion)



I can't say why he chose to sleep in our pantry.

Cohesion

A **cohesive** text:

- flows smoothly
- makes links between ideas
- makes clear how meanings fit together

When a text has **cohesion**, it **fits together** as a unit of meaning.
It is not just a list of random sentences.

Cohesive devices can help to create cohesion.

Pronouns make links to what has already been said and help avoid repetition.

Determiners make links to what has already been said.

Pronouns

Pronouns are used in the place of a **noun**.

Eric had a hat. Eric put the hat on.
Eric had a hat. He put it on.

Pronouns replace the nouns
Eric and **hat**

*I me she mine his hers
it him her yours
he her its*

Cohesive devices – Pronouns

Click [here](#) for further revision of pronouns.

Pronouns can be used as **cohesive devices**.

They avoid repetition and make links to what has already been said..

Eric had found a **hat**. The **hat** was a large one. The **hat** was far too large to fit on **Eric's** head. But **Eric** liked the **hat**. “The **hat** is **Eric's hat**,” **Eric** said.

Eric had found a hat. **It** was a large one. **It** was far too large to fit on **his** head. But **he** liked the hat. “**It** is **mine**,” **he** said.

*The word in pink is a **determiner**. It comes **before and specifies the noun (head)** telling us whose head it is.*

Determiners

Determiners go *before* a noun.
They show if a noun is specific or general.

Determiners tell us more
about the nouns.

a *the* *my* *your* *those*
an *its* *his* *her* *that* *this* *some*
any

Eric saw **an** elephant - any old elephant

Eric was amazed at **the** elephants - the elephants in the zoo

Children love elephants - children in general love elephants generally

The children loved **those** elephants – the specified children loved the elephants we know about.

Cohesive devices – Determiners

Determiners can be used as **cohesive devices**.

They provide cohesion because they **make links** to what has already been said.

the friends that were mentioned earlier

the trick that Eric performed with his hat

Those friends who had watched **the** trick asked Eric how he had done it. Eric smiled and shook **his** head. He would never reveal **his** secret.

Eric shook his own head, where the frog had been

Eric's secret about the trick in particular

Can you spot the determiners? How do they make links to other parts of the text?

Pronouns replace a noun.

*I me we she
it him hers
he her mine his
its yours*

He was very curious.

The objects were ours.

Determiners go before a noun.

*a the your those
an my her that
his these some
any*

We repainted the spare room.

His questions were unexpected.

Have a go at finding the determiners in these sentences.

1. Those earrings are beautiful!
2. "Whose bone is that?" he thought.
3. Our house was built in the 1900s.
4. Many people have pets.
5. The boy replied, "That book on the shelf."
6. There were a few biscuits left in the tin.
7. Determiner Dog sat in a garden waiting for the postman to arrive.
8. A cat slowly walked along the fence.
9. 'Get out of my garden!' thought Determiner Dog.
10. Another cat appeared on the fence. Determiner Dog barked at the two cats to scare them away.