

Pronouns, determiners and adding cohesion

Outsiders



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

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.

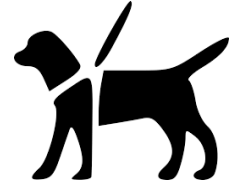
Eric had found a hat. **It** was a large one. **It** was far too large to fit on **his** head. But **he** liked the hat. “**It** is **mine**,” **he** said.

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

There are **three** types of pronoun:

1. **Personal** pronouns – *I, me, you, he, she, him, her, etc.*
2. **Possessive** pronouns – *mine, yours, his, hers, its, etc.*
3. **Relative** pronouns – *who, which, that, where, etc.*

1. Personal pronouns



These replace **nouns** and **noun phrases**.

Simon called his guide dog.

He called her.

Hobbes the dog loved to chase cats.

He loved to chase them.

The kitchen is where the dog sleeps.

It is where he sleeps.

Guide dogs know how to cross the road.

They know how to cross it.

Tina is pleased with the guide dog.

She is pleased with him.

*The crazy new puppy with floppy ears
bounced excitedly.*

She bounced excitedly.

2. Possessive pronouns

These refer to the possession of someone or something by someone or something.

Possessive pronouns stand in place of the **noun**.

*The guide dog is **yours**.*

*The kennel is **mine**.*

*The white stick is **hers**.*



NOTE: In 'That is **your** guide dog.', '**your**' is not a pronoun but a determiner. ***These are explained next!***

3. Relative pronouns

These usually introduce a clause which gives us more information about a person, creature, place or thing.

*The lead, **which** was made of metal, lay beside the dog.*

*'which' is a **relative pronoun** referring to the lead*

*Ann, **who** was completely blind, wanted a dog.*

*'who' is a **relative pronoun** referring to Ann*

*The high street is a place **that** many blind people find tricky.*

*'that' is a **relative pronoun** referring to the high street*

*The house, **where** he lived, is all on one level.*

*'where' is a **relative pronoun** referring to the house*

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 her this
these some
any*

*We repainted **the** spare room.*

***His** questions were unexpected.*