

# TOOLS for COHESION

## THE TOPIC SENTENCE (first sentence)

The first sentence introduces the subject of the paragraph: the topic. The paragraph answers a question about the topic.

Our data do not allow us to identify the actual causal mechanisms of the spread of happiness, but various mechanisms are possible. Happy people might share their good fortune (for example, by being pragmatically helpful or financially generous to others), or change their behaviour towards others (for example, by being nicer or less hostile), or merely exude an emotion that is genuinely contagious (albeit over a longer time frame than previous psychological work has indicated). Psychoneuroimmunological mechanisms are also conceivable, whereby being surrounded by happy individuals has beneficial biological effects.

**Topic:** Various mechanisms as causes of the spread of happiness.

**Question:** What are possible mechanisms?

## THE KEY SENTENCE (the point); PYRAMID, FUNNEL, BOOKCASE

The key sentence expresses the main message of the paragraph (if there is one). Some paragraphs sum up information and have no main message: they are shaped like a book case. If the key sentence is the topic sentence, the paragraph is shaped like a pyramid. If the key sentence is the last (concluding) sentence of the paragraph, the paragraph is a funnel.



### 1. Pyramid

It is too easy to conclude that successful replication means that the theoretical understanding of the original finding is correct. Direct replication mainly provides evidence for the reliability of a result. If there are alternative explanations for the original finding, those alternatives could likewise account for the replication. Understanding is achieved through multiple, diverse investigations that provide converging support for a theoretical interpretation and rule out alternative explanations.

**Topic:** The meaning of successful replication.

**Question:** What does successful replication mean? and Why is it not so that.... ?



### 2. Funnel

Direct replication mainly provides evidence for the reliability of a result. If there are alternative explanations for the original finding, those alternatives could likewise account for the replication. Understanding is achieved through multiple, diverse investigations that provide converging support for a theoretical interpretation and rule out alternative explanations. It follows that it is too easy to conclude that successful replication means that the theoretical understanding of the original finding is correct.

**Topic:** The meaning of direct replication.

**Question:** What does successful replication mean? and Why is it not so that?



### 3. Book case

There are three different theories put forward for the very slow relaxation of catch muscles of molluscs. One theory holds that catch is due to some unusual property of myosin in these muscles that produces a small rate of detachment. In this theory, paramyosin would have no special role beyond that of providing the long scaffolding on which the myosin is positioned as well as the mechanical strength for the large tensions developed. The second theory holds that tension is developed by actin-myosin interaction but is maintained by paramyosin interactions. Because the thick filaments are of limited length, interaction would have to occur through fusion of thick filaments. A third theory, to which I subscribe, pictures a structural change in the paramyosin core affecting the rate of breaking of myosin-actin links at the filament structure.

**Topic:** Three different theories for the very slow relaxation of catch muscles of molluscs.

**Question:** What are they?

## BRIDGES

First and last sentences of paragraphs can build a bridge to preceding or following paragraphs.

1. **On the other hand**, the differences **may also be explained by** differences in distribution and metabolism of both forms.
2. (paragraph in discussion) Past research on emotional contagion indicates that close physical proximity or coresidence is indeed necessary for emotional states to spread.<sup>23</sup> .....  
(paragraphs that follows): **Past research also suggests** that changes in happiness are temporary and that there is “hedonic adaptation” to diverse stimuli (in other words, people get used to good or bad fortune after some time).
3. **Another important error in perception** is what we call *change blindness*.

## REPEATING KEY TERMS

Repeating key terms create cohesion. To avoid repetition of key terms too much, you can use referring words. Do not use synonyms to avoid repetition; they might confuse your reader.

Once a full set of individuals and ties is observed, there is only one “**network**” per se. **This network**, however, can be analysed or drawn in various ways. For example, within **this network**, one might include only ties between people and their friends and spouses or one might include only ties between family members. One might look at just the largest component or sample several hundred nodes from **the network** to study part of its structure more closely.

**REFERRING WORDS:** This, that, these, those, they, it, she, he, ..

Be sure the link your reference word provides is clear. Can there be no doubt about which word or clause you are referring to?

1. Hence, although the person to person effects of these outcomes tend to be quite strong, **they** decay well before reaching the whole network.
2. Detailed information on home address was also captured at each time point, **which** we geocoded to determine neighbour relationships.

**ANAPHORIC NOUNS:** this solution, this development, these ideas...

Anaphoric nouns are nouns that refer to concepts you described earlier. They provide a clear and meaningful link for the reader.

1. We conjecture that **this phenomenon** is generic.
2. Most important from our perspective is the recognition that people are embedded in social networks and that the health and wellbeing of one person affects the health and wellbeing of others. **This fundamental fact of existence** provides a conceptual justification for the speciality of public health.
3. Finally, similarity in socioeconomic status probably cannot explain ..... Moreover, the geographical distribution of happiness is not systematically related to ..... **Both of these observations** suggest that contextual effects are probably not driving our results.

## TRANSITIONAL PHRASES

Transitional words and phrases express the relations between clauses, sentences and phrases. Check the relevance and effect of your transitional words and phrases in multiple rounds of editing.

(see overview sheet)