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Easyto-read coherent paragraphs

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The following pair of sentences is hard-to-read because both the first and second sentence start with long and specific technical subjects (underlined). If these sentences were included at the start of a paper, the reader would likely feel uncomfortable and lost.

Not this: A determination of involvement of lipid-linked chains in the assembly of oligosaccharide was the principal aim of this study. In vitro and in vivo studies utilizing oviduct membrane preparations and oviduct slices and the antibiotic tunicamycin were undertaken to accomplish the study's principle aim (Bizup and Williams, 91).

The next pair of sentences is easy-to-read because both the first and second sentences start with short and familiar subjects (underlined). When readers start a paper, they expect a paper to have a purpose, so when they read the subject of the first sentence, they are prepared as the writer has signaled them. They are then ready to accept the longer, new, and more complex information in the second half of each sentence.

But this: The principal aim of this study is to determine how lipid-linked chains are involved in the assembly of oligosaccharide in vivo. To accomplish the study's principal aim, studies were undertaken in vitro and in vivo, utilizing the antibiotics tunicamycin on preparations of oviduct membrane and on oviduct slices (Bizup and Williams, 91).

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Signal words show the transitions between parts of the paper. They allow the writer to directly tell the reader what to expect, so the reader will be able to follow the writer's line of thought. Review the sample cases below in bold followed by a few examples:

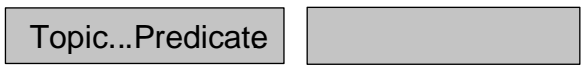
- ¥ Addition: Also, in addition, furthermore
- ¥ Comparison: Equally, similarly
- ¥ Contrast: Instead, in contrast, conversely
- ¥ Example: For example, for instance, such as
- ¥ Highlight: In particular, especially
- ¥ Qualify: However, but, although, except
- ¥ Restate: In other words, put more simply
- ¥ Result: Because, so, therefore, as a result
- ¥ Sequence: First, second, next, after

Heart disease is a leading cause of death for women in America, causing about 1 in 4 deaths. However, often heart disease is thought of as a "man's disease." Consequently, many women are not educated on the symptoms. Many needless female deaths may be prevented through Tweeters. To address this problem, this study proposes two solutions: using viral marketing and engaging Instagram influencers.

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The paragraph below is hard to read and is choppy. All sentences begin with the same topic molecule. It reads like a list of items and is not a well-connected paragraph. Readers have to do more work to figure out what the writer is saying.

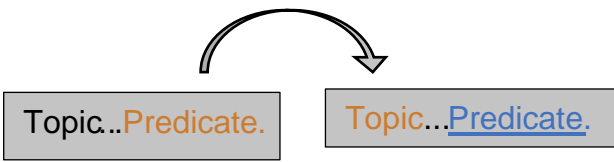
Molecules are bonded atoms. Molecules are strength of the bonds. Molecules are would predict.



The paragraph below is easy to read and the sentences flow into one another. Each sentence begins with a topic that was in the predicate of the following sentence as seen in the model. The overall paragraph feels like a well-connected whole.

But this: Molecules consist of covalently bonded atoms. Bond strength controls molecules reactions. Sometimes, however, reactions are slower than bond strength would predict (Schimmel, 126).

Molecules are bonded atoms. Bond strength is reactions. Reactions are would predict.



This pattern makes the sentences read like a paragraph.

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Read sample A and B. Decide which is easier to read and write down four reasons to support your answer. Sample answers can be found on the next page.

Sample A:

Great strides in the early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease have been made in recent years. Not too long ago, senility in an older patient who seemed to be losing touch with reality was often confused with Alzheimer's. Genetic clues have become the basis of new and more reliable tests in the last few years, however. The risk of human tragedy of another kind, though, has resulted from the increasing accuracy of these tests: prediction about susceptibility to Alzheimer's have become possible long before the appearance of any overt symptoms. At that point, an apparently healthy person could be devastated by such an early diagnosis (Biggs and Williams, 87).

Is Sample A an easy-to-read, coherent paragraph? Why or why not? List four reasons.

Sample B:

In the past few years, researchers have made great strides in the early and accurate diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, but those diagnoses have raised a new problem about informing those most at risk who show no symptoms of it. Not too long ago, when a physician examined an older patient who seemed out of touch with reality, she had to guess whether that person had Alzheimer's or was only senile. However, physicians now have been able to use new and more reliable tests focusing on genetic clues. The accuracy of these new tests conceals the risk of another kind of human tragedy. Today, physicians may be able to predict Alzheimer's long before its overt appearance, but such an early diagnosis could psychologically devastate an apparently healthy

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