

Recognising Devices to Build Cohesion

1. Underline all the examples of parenthesis in the paragraph below.

1800

The girl's day had started out as a warm and tremendously enjoyable one, spent laughing and revelling at the travelling circus, which had arrived earlier in the week. But the day quickly turned sour and deadly. She looked toward the enormous black cloud that hung in the sky like a sad piñata. A deluge began to soak the earth. She and her friends shrieked, gathered their skirts and headed for the shelter of an elm. Once there, huddled with her two friends, she checked the parcel in her arms. A baby, barely a year old, that she was looking after for her neighbours, stared up at her through large eyes and gurgled happily. Just as the girl dropped her shoulders, a surge of lightning sprang forth from the heavens and struck. The only survivor was the small bundle that lay on the ground, Mary Anning.

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2. List all the conjunctions used in the paragraph below.

1808

Mary clambered onto the step and into the church where she would devote a part of her life. Although she felt rather big for her age, the step was still quite the challenge. After dusting the beach off her skirt, she headed inside, shoulders back. She had been learning to read and write at Sunday School, and eagerly soaked up the knowledge like a beach absorbs a wave. She loved to learn new things, but her favourite thing to do, the thing she had always loved, was heading to the base of the cliffs to comb the fresh-churned earth for fossils.

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3. In the paragraph below, find an example of a relative clause, a pronoun and a fronted adverbial.

1811

"Oh my, Mary, here! A whole skull!" Joseph shouted excitedly. Reluctantly, Mary had to admit that the find was extraordinary, and she couldn't help but feel a pang of envy. But, if nothing else, her brother's find had stoked determination within her, and she doubled her efforts to find something just as splendid. Before the season's change, her resolve, which had remained unwavering, had paid off. She was unsure exactly what the creature was, but it was nothing like anything found before, and it certainly was splendid.

All extracts taken from 'Year 6 Reading Skills – Faith in Fossils' by Classroom Secrets

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4. Explain why the writer used ellipsis in the paragraph below.

As Aditi laid in the soft grass, she realised that she hadn't heard Two-Scoops bark for at least a minute. It was their favourite place to walk as nobody else came this way, and it was far enough from the roads that Scoops could play off his lead. They were currently enjoying a game of hide-and-seek in the long grass — something they both thoroughly enjoyed. Scoops' tail would wag up a storm when he found Aditi and he would lick her face excitedly until she couldn't stand it any longer. The sudden loneliness forced her body into a sitting position as her stomach jumped off a cliff. As she stood, she listened... Directing her ears this way and that, she heard nothing: no barking and no wagging tail in the grass.

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5. Write the first two sentences of the next paragraph. Include parenthesis.

"Two-Scoooooops! Here, boy! What's this? Scoops!"
Still no sound, no barks of reply, no awkwardly disturbed grass whipping out of his way, no little brown head bobbing over the crops. Nothing. Aditi ran in zigzagging circles, her voice growing more uneven as she shouted and beckoned. She lowered her cupped hands and decided to take a thoughtful stance. How far could he have got in two minutes? Was there anybody who could help?

A

6. If you were going to add extra information to the first sentence of the paragraph below, would you use a fronted adverbial or a relative clause? Why? Give an example.

She reached the edge of the field. Lush emerald merged into brown that was twisted and gnarled. The roots resembled a bowl of eels more than roots. The forest had always given her the creeps and was so dense that she had never thought that Scoops would even fit through if he tried. This couldn't be where he had gone. He'd often yapped at the edge, acutely aware of more than she could sense, but he'd never tried to venture in.

All extracts taken from 'Year 6 Reading Skills – The Pooka' by Classroom Secrets

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2. and, although, after, but

3. Relative clause: which had remained unwavering

Pronoun: she, it, her

Fronted adverbial: reluctantly

4. The writer has used the ellipses to build suspense in the paragraph. Aditi is stopping and listening for the dog barking. The ellipses shows missing words, which are then referred to in the next sentence. We now know that Aditi was listening for the dog barking.

5. Various answers, for example: Amondo, her older brother, had followed Aditi into the field. He realised Aditi's panic and rushed towards her to help.

6. Various answers, for example: I would use a fronted adverbial because it could tell us when she reached the edge of the field. It could suggest she was being quick because she was panicking. For example, 'Moments later, she reached the edge of the field.'