

AUSTRALIA CONTINENT

A. Reading

Oldest, Flattest, Driest



Australia is the only country which entirely occupies a continent. It is also physically very different from other countries and continents. It is the world's oldest, lowest and driest inhabited continent. These characteristics have a great effect on its environment, bio-sphere and human activity.

Australia is very old. Its surface has been exposed to weathering and erosion for a very long time. It is the only continent without active volcanoes.

Australia is very flat. It has the lowest average height and the lowest difference between high and low points. Its mountains ranges are the lowest in the world, and most of the continent is just a broad, flat platform.

Australia receives less rainfall than any other continent. More than 30% is classified as desert, with less than 250 millimetres of rain per year. Another 30% is classified as semi-desert, with between 250 and 500 millimetres of rain per year. As a result, Australia is the driest continent in the world.

(Taken from: *KangGuru. October 2005*)

Exercise

1. Are there some volcanoes in Australia?
2. What are the characteristics of Australia?
3. How much of Australia is classified as desert?
4. Why is Australia called the flat place?
5. How do we know that Australia is the driest continent?

B. Vocabulary

Cohesive Devices

Cohesive devices are words used by a writer to link the sentences of a paragraph. To be cohesive means to be attached tightly with each other. This link is done by using cohesive devices. In addition to making a link, cohesive devices may also often function to provide variation in the way a paragraph is written. Look at the paragraph below.

The type of food eaten by a fish changes as it grows. A newly-hatched trout does not feed at all during the first weeks of life. **In contrast**, a newly-hatched perch is active as soon as it hatches. It swims up to the surface of the water and take in air to inflate its swim bladder. Air must be swallowed into the swim bladder through the gut before the perch is a few days old. A group of trout like to swim around white rocks. **Meanwhile**, perches like to form another group. They like to hang around the wild weeds.

The use of **in contrast** in line 2 links Sentence 2 to Sentence 1. By reading this cohesive device, we can understand that the writer is comparing between trout and perches. The use of **meanwhile**, also links between this sentence and the sentence before.

Below are some other cohesive devices. These are not the complete examples. You have to look into your dictionary to find more of such words used as cohesive devices.

Words	Function	Example
<u>Personal pronouns:</u> <i>he, him, she, it, them, you, one, ones, etc.</i>	substitution	When she was chosen as the first woman in space, Sally Ride joined the training program together with five other women and thirty-four men.
<u>Demonstratives:</u> <i>this, that, these, such those, two, three, etc.</i>	substitution	The Aleuts and the Eskimo speak similar languages. This indicates that the two once shared a common tongue.
<u>Comparatives:</u> <i>the former, the latter the first, the last</i>	substitution	There are two basic techniques of reading: skimming and scanning. The former is used for fast reading. The latter is used for detailed information.
<u>Conjunctives:</u> <i>who, whom, which, etc. do, will, has, etc.</i>	substitution	It is the persons with the least food, clothing, and housing whom you have to help in this program.
<i>to begin with, then, moreover, finally, etc.</i>	listing	To begin with , you should look at the tank. If you don't find anything wrong, then you ...
<i>besides, in any case, anyway, what's more, furthermore, etc.</i>	reinforcement	I won't be coming. I have some work to do. Besides , I don't think this is the right to time to play the game.
<i>in a word, in short, to sum up, altogether, in all, to conclude</i>	summarizing	Each chapter is supported by a reference; in short , this is a carefully-written material.
<i>that is, that is to say, namely, i.e., viz., etc.</i>	explanation	At least one person, namely the President himself, supports the proposal.
<i>but, though, despite, however, nevertheless, etc.</i>	contrast	Although he was very tired, he worked hard until after midnight.
<i>for, since, because, considering, due to, in view of, etc.</i>	cause/reason	Due to the bad weather, we had to postpone the performance.
<i>so, so that, therefore, as a result, etc.</i>	effect/result	He ran out of money. Therefore , he had to look for a job.
<u>Synonyms</u>	substitution	Three young boys were arrested for ripping off public phones. These youths were not aware of the consequences of their act.

Exercise 1

What is the function of the words *another* and the *as the result* below?

Australia receives less rainfall than any other continent. More than 30% is classified as dessert, with less than 250 millimetres of rain per year. **Another** 30% is classified as semi-desert, with between 250 and 500 millimetres of rain per year. **As a result**, Australia is the driest continent in the world.

Exercise 2

Fill in each blank with a conjunction from the list. You need to be extra careful because some of conjunctions may slightly overlap.

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Left-handed people suffer more from their right-handed peers; -----, they smoke and drink more. 2. Reports state that yogurt eaters have better and healthier lives than non-yogurt eaters; ----- there is no proof that this is supported by facts. 3. You must listen to their complaints, control your reactions, and give your best comments. -----, you must be responsive to their emotional explosions. 4. The oil embargo caused difficult problems for many automobile factories in the world; -----, companies in Germany should produce smaller cars. 5. The documents should include your student card, a copy of your grade-point report, and a consent from your academic advisor. -----, these documents should be photocopied twice. 6. Each day trip will include a specific theme in nature; ----- the weather, birds, fishes, and plant ecology. 7. The idea that "a woman's place is at the home" no longer applied to the brave ladies in space; -----, it was no surprise when Svetlana Savitskaya orbited the earth and landed safely after being in space for three days. 8. Instead of making revision on his work, he did not do anything last night. --- -, he did not want to make any improvement at all. 9. Studies indicate that people who eat salt suffer the most from hypertension; -----, tribesmen and women who do not eat salt are free from hypertension. 10. The prisoners ate their morning meal at about six o'clock. -----, they picked up their tools and worked on their handicrafts. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. therefore b. such as c. as a result d. above all e. afterward f. on the other hand g. in fact h. however i. furthermore j. in particular |
|---|--|



Man gets and forgets, God gives and forgives.

C. Grammar

Sentence Patterns: SVC

We have studied about the sentence patterns in English. One of these is the SVC pattern:

Subject + Verb + Complement.

Below, we will study more about this pattern.

The secretary is diligent.
The secretary is a diligent boy.
The secretary is in his office.

These are some of the characteristics of the SVC pattern:

- ◆ The verb is usually a form of **be**: e.g. is, am, are, was, were, be, been

Australia is very old.
Australia is very flat.

- ◆ Linking verbs are also possible: e.g. look, seem, appear, feel, taste, get, become, etc.

The secretary looks diligent.
The secretary becomes diligent boy.
The secretary seems in his office.

- ◆ The complement (C) can be an adjective, a noun or noun phrase, or a preposition phrase

The secretary is <u>diligent</u> .	—————→	diligent = adjective
The secretary is <u>a diligent boy</u> .	—————→	a diligent boy = noun phrase
The secretary is <u>in his office</u> .	—————→	in his office = preposition phrase

Exercise

The sentences below have the SVC patterns. Look for the subject, verb, and complement. Identify the form of the complement.

- The participants will be students of economics.
- The subject of personal taxes is extremely complex.
- One of the purposes of the network has been to show all the relations.
- A manager will have to be very sensible to various kinds of problems.
- By the middle of next month, he will have been in power for two years.
- All the boys and girls look tired after working all days.
- The participants who have finished their work are out.
- Having the necessary financial and material resources, management functions should be to utilize human, financial, and material resources.
- The conflicts arising among persons within the management level can get very serious.
- The first step to getting to know yourself well is to take personal inventory of your strengths and weaknesses.
- After working for 13 years, he at last became supervisor of the night-shift lifters.
- She seemed happy with all the preparation she was able to make.
- One reason for Boeing dominant market share has been its international market share which rose almost 70% by the end of the year.
- It is difficult for specialists to be promoted to the top management levels.
- The conflicts arising among persons within the management