

Boost Free Lessons - Year 10 English

Lesson 10: Strengthening Authority and Coherence

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Worked Example 1

Use the feedback to improve the paragraph.

Paragraph: Recycling should be compulsory. Studies show it works. Councils should act.

Feedback: No source, no explanation, and the last sentence does not follow.

1. Take each piece of feedback in turn rather than rewriting blindly.
2. **No source:** replace *studies show* with a named study, a date and a figure.
3. **No explanation:** add a sentence saying what the evidence shows and why it matters.
4. **Does not follow:** the final sentence jumps to action without connecting to the evidence.

Model: Recycling should be compulsory. A 2023 review of twelve council areas found that mandatory schemes recovered 31 per cent more material than voluntary ones. The difference is not explained by public attitude but by participation rates, which rise sharply when a scheme is not optional. If the aim is recovered material rather than goodwill, compulsion is the mechanism that delivers it.

Worked Example 2

Why does the second version cohere better?

A. The trial began in March. Funding was approved in June. Numbers doubled.

B. The trial began in March. By June the numbers had doubled, which was what finally secured the funding.

1. Version A gives three facts in sequence but never states how they relate.
2. The reader has to guess whether the funding caused the growth or the growth caused the funding.
3. Version B names the relationship explicitly with *which was what finally secured*.
4. Coherence is about making the **relationships** between ideas visible, not just their order.

Version B states the causal relationship, so the reader follows the reasoning rather than reconstructing it.

Remember: Use feedback **one point at a time**. Name your sources, explain your evidence, and make the **relationships** between ideas explicit rather than leaving the reader to infer them.



Question 1: Write what you would do in response to each piece of feedback.

1. Feedback: no evidence given.

2. Feedback: evidence given but not explained.

3. Feedback: paragraph makes two points at once.

4. Feedback: no link between paragraphs.

5. Feedback: source is not named.

6. Feedback: claim is stronger than the evidence supports.

7. Feedback: conclusion repeats the introduction.

8. Feedback: reader cannot tell how the ideas relate.



Question 2: Read the passage below, then answer the questions.

Most experts agree that weekly collection is better. A survey found strong support. The council should move to weekly collection from July.

1. Identify one claim in the passage that lacks authority.

2. Identify one place where the reasoning does not connect.

3. What single change would most improve the passage?

4. Rewrite the passage, addressing both problems.

5. Why is naming a relationship better than leaving it implied?



Question 3: Answer the following questions.

1. Write a weak paragraph, then write feedback on it.

2. Rewrite your paragraph using your own feedback.

3. Explain why the best writers seek criticism rather than praise.





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Answers and Model Responses: Strengthening Authority and Coherence**Question 1**

1. Add a specific, checkable fact, figure or example.
2. Add a sentence explaining what the evidence shows and why it matters.
3. Split it into two paragraphs, one point each.
4. Add a sentence connecting the new point to the argument so far.
5. Name the source, the date and the sample where possible.
6. Lower the modality: replace *proves* with *suggests* or *indicates*.
7. Rewrite the conclusion to show what the argument established.
8. Add linking words that name the relationship, such as *because* or *as a result*.

Question 2

1. Model: *most experts agree*, which names nobody and cannot be checked.
2. Model: the jump from the survey to the recommendation, with nothing explaining how one leads to the other.
3. Model: adding an explanation between the evidence and the recommendation.
4. Model: A 2024 survey of 600 households found that 68 per cent supported weekly collection. Support at that level suggests the change would not require a campaign to be accepted, which removes the main practical objection. On that basis, the council should move to weekly collection from July.
5. An implied relationship makes the reader guess, and different readers will guess differently. Naming it means everyone follows the same reasoning.

Question 3

1. Model response: Paragraph: School canteens should sell more fruit. It is healthier. Everyone knows this. Feedback: no evidence, no explanation, and *everyone knows* is not a source.
2. Model response: School canteens should sell more fruit. A term-long trial at one school found fruit sales tripled when placed at the counter rather than the back fridge. Placement, not price, was the barrier, which means the change costs nothing to make.
3. Praise tells you what already works and changes nothing. Criticism identifies the specific weakness, which is the only information that can improve the next draft.

