

## Words and Images – Reading Comprehension Teacher’s Version

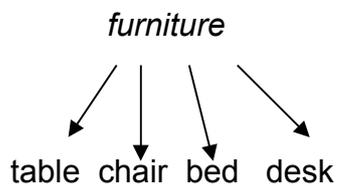
Question 6 below requires you to understand the writing technique called lexical cohesion. Hopefully, by noticing how it is used here, you’ll see how you can use it in your own writing.

**Lexical Cohesion** – This is the technique of using synonyms and superordinates, hyponyms and subordinates to link ideas, sentences and paragraphs.

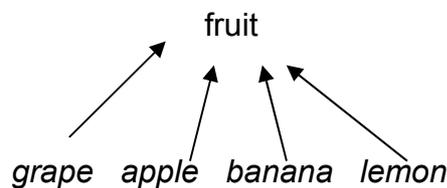
### Synonyms

kind – gentle, nice, sympathetic, thoughtful, caring

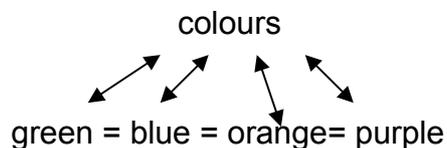
### Superordinates



### Subordinates



### Hyponyms



One example of lexical cohesion in Section 1 of the reading looks like this:

para. 1 – journalist

para. 2 – she

para. 3 – columnists, writers, she

para. 9 - writer’s

Read the article. Start at the beginning and read through to the end. Be sure to pay attention to the pictures.

### Sections 1 & 2

1. How is Section 2 of the article related to Section 1?

*It aims to refute (or contradict) the points made by the Australian journalist. It does this by contrasting the Australian situation with that of other (often much poorer) countries.*

What is the overall purpose of this section?

*It aims to show how the true story of asylum seekers was manipulated by the way they were discussed in the media. Then it goes on to show how changes in the way asylum seeker issues were reported in the media was then followed by changes to how asylum seekers issues were handled in Australia.*

2. What is a possible implication of the Australian example? Why do you think this example was given at the beginning of an article that is mostly about how asylum seekers are portrayed in the UK media?

*It indicates that the media's portrayal of an issue like immigration can have a real impact (negative or positive) on government policy and the actions and beliefs of the general public. A change in the way the media portrays an issue can lead to changes in government policy and the public's beliefs.*

*If this can happen in Australia, could the same happen in the UK?*

### **Section 3**

3. What are some causes of poor media reporting?

*Section 3, paragraph 1*

4. How bad is the situation in the UK?

*British newspapers are littered with adverse and/or inaccurate stories about asylum seekers and other immigrants*

*Section 3, paragraphs 3 onwards – for detailed facts and figures*

5. How are journalists (mis)using the writing technique of 'lexical cohesion'?

*They are using the terms asylum seeker, immigrants, refugee, foreigners and gypsies as if they are synonyms or hyponyms.*

6. What new collocations have the media created?

*illegal asylum seekers  
illegal refugees  
bogus asylum seekers  
asylum cheats*

*criminals (or crime) + asylum seekers  
refugee + rape  
migrant monster  
asylum madness*

7. What is the problem with this misuse of language?

*Both the public and politicians may fail to distinguish between these groups of people.*

8. How did one newspaper directly try to influence the government?

*Sun coupon campaign*

#### **Section 4**

9. What evidence was there of a more indirect influence on the public?

*The public begins to adopt the same language as the newspapers and to repeat the incorrect information reported by the newspapers.*

*Overall, Britain's willingness to accept asylum seekers was decreasing.*

10. What phrase do newspapers use against people who might criticise how they are reporting on immigration issues?

*They claim that critics are just being 'politically correct'. Political correctness is used in a **pejorative** sense. (Note: a key word from the vocabulary list!)*

11. What have some organisations and journalists done to try to stop this negative and inaccurate reporting?

*Article 19 published a report highlight the problem.*

*The Association of Chief Police Officers issued a 'best practice' guide.*

*Journalists from The Daily Express made two official complaints to the PCC.*

12. What is one potential danger of all this reporting?

*Once racism against immigrants becomes normal (or commonplace) then changing or ignoring laws designed to prevent racism won't be seen as a problem.*