

Consider the following paragraph:

"Epidemiological studies have severe limitations. Since people come with a variety of behaviours and appetites and are the 'objects' being studied, the requirements of experimental science can seldom be adhered to in such studies. A laboratory re-creation where certain factors can be varied systematically to determine their influence and effect is not as good as a study that takes place only in the conditions that have occurred. Most seriously, by the time a positive result becomes evident, large numbers of workers may have been damaged or injured irreversibly because epidemiological studies can take decades to be completed."

Is there a clear pattern of development?

How about now?

"Epidemiological studies have severe limitations. Firstly, such studies can seldom be made in adherence to all the requirements of experimental science since the 'objects' being studied are people and they come with a variety of behaviours and appetites. Secondly, the study can take place only in the conditions that have occurred, and not in a laboratory re-creation of them where certain factors can be varied systematically to determine their influence and effect. Most seriously, epidemiological studies can take decades to be completed, so that by the time a positive result becomes evident, large numbers of workers may have been damaged or injured irreversibly."

Probably, you can understand the first paragraph, but the pattern of development is not logical. This is because the subjects or themes of each sentence (the nouns or noun groups before the main verb in each sentence) are not predictable – there is no consistent pattern of development. This means that it is more difficult for the reader to follow the ideas or the argument of the writer.

In the second paragraph, there is a more logical pattern of development – in this case a parallel pattern of development. This enables the reader to follow the ideas of the writer. The writer guides the reader through the text to communicate the meaning.