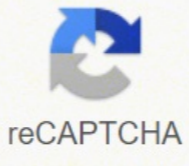




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# What is a cause and effect structure

Created Feb. 9, 2017 by Heather Turngren Cause and effect is a common way to organize information in a text. Paragraphs structured as cause and effect explain reasons why something happened or the effects of something. The cause and effect writing is generally used in expository writing (to explain, describe, or inform -give information) and persuasive writing (to persuade, develop a logical argument, or give an opinion) styles. To put it another way: when an author gives reasons why something happened, he or she is explaining what caused an effect (reasons are causes and the thing that happens is the effect). Also, when a writer explains the results of an action, he or she is explaining the effects of a cause (results are effects and the thing that occurs is the cause). The cause and effect text structure is used so commonly that you have probably written a paragraph using it and not noticed. Example 1: Many people think that they can get sick by going into cold weather improperly dressed; however, illnesses are not caused by temperature- they are caused by germs. So while shivering outside in the cold probably won't strengthen your immune system, you're more likely to contract an illness indoors because you will have a greater exposure to germs. Using a graphic organizer, it is easy to label the cause and effect from the reading passage. Example 2: Students are not allowed to chew gum in my class. While some students think that I am just being mean, there are many good reasons for this rule. First, some irresponsible students make messes with their gum. They may leave it on the bottoms of desks, drop it on the floor, or put it on other people's property. Another reason why I don't allow students to chew gum is because it is a distraction. When they are allowed to chew gum, students are more worried about having it, popping it, chewing it, and snapping it then they are in listening, writing, reading, and learning. This is why I don't allow students to chew gum in my class. Identifying a text written using the cause and effect pattern of organization can be tricky. In most stories, events in the plot occur for various reasons. This can be mistaken for the cause and effect; however, stories are organized chronologically, and the information in each passage is more likely to be organized by the time in which each event occurred. Most stories are not organized by cause and effect. Cause and effect passages usually focus on explaining the reason why something occurs or occurred, and time will usually not pass in these paragraphs. One way to remember is that the cause happens first and effect happens second. Here are some signal words that may indicate that information in a paragraph is organized as cause and effect: because, as a result, resulted, caused, affected, since, due to, effect, and so. Exercises: Write the cause and the effect from each sentence. Underline the signal word that helped you. 1. It had begun to rain, so Sadio and Yusuf had to run inside. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Since it was so chilly and damp outside, Ahmed built a big fire in his fireplace. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Ernestina was getting very frustrated and angry because none of her good ideas were being recognized at work. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In the move "The Wizard of Oz", a tornado picked up Auntie Em's house in Kansas, and as a result, Dorothy and Toto ended up in the wonderful world of Oz. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 5. We went to the grocery store because we needed milk, tortillas, and cheese. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Scientists believe that long ago humans needed food, so they followed herds of mammoths to North America. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Long ago humans used weapons because they needed to find food. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Since they wanted to learn about how life was long ago, archaeologists study artifacts. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Early hunter-gatherers learned to grow food, and as a result, their lives became much easier. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The glaciers began to melt and therefore the land bridge between Asia and North America became flooded. Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ Effect: \_\_\_\_\_ Challenge: Write your own cause and effect statements in the space below: \_\_\_\_\_ material is remixed from eReadingworksheets.comTEACHER ANSWER KEY1. It had begun to rain, so Sadio and Yusuf had to run inside. Cause: It had begun to rain. Effect: Sadio and Yusuf had to run inside. Key word: so2. Since it was so chilly and damp outside, Ahmed built a big fire in his fireplace. Cause: It was so chilly and damp outside. Effect: Ahmed built a big fire in his fireplace. Key word: Since3. Ernestina was getting very angry and frustrated because none of her good ideas were being recognized at work. Cause: Ernestina was getting very frustrated and angry. Effect: None of her good ideas were being recognized at work. Key word: because4. In the move "The Wizard of Oz", a tornado picked up Auntie Em's house in Kansas, and as a result, Dorothy and Toto ended up in the wonderful world of Oz. Cause: A tornado picked up Auntie Em's house in Kansas. Effect: Dorothy and Toto ended up in the wonderful world of Oz. Key word: as a result5. We went to the grocery store because we needed milk, tortillas, and cheese. Cause: We needed milk, tortillas, and cheese. Effect: We went to the grocery store. Key word: because6. Scientists believe that long ago humans needed food, so they followed herds of mammoths to North America. Cause: Humans needed food. Effect: They followed herds of mammoths to North America. Key word: so7. Long ago humans used weapons because they needed to find food. Cause: Humans needed to find food. Effect: Humans used weapons. Key word: because8. Since they wanted to learn about how life was long ago, archaeologists study artifacts. Cause: Archaeologists wanted to learn how life was long ago. Effect: They study artifacts. Key word: Because9. Early hunter-gatherers learned to grow food, and as a result, their lives became much easier. Cause: Early hunter-gatherers learned to grow food. Effect: Their lives became much easier. Key word: as a result10. The glaciers began to melt and therefore the land bridge between Asia and North America became flooded. Cause: The glaciers began to melt. Effect: The land bridge between Asia and North America became flooded. Key word: thereforeChallenge: Answers will vary. Cause and effect essay questions in IELTS Writing task 2 give you a problem and ask you to state the main causes of this problem and discuss its possible effects. In this lesson you will see: how to generate ideas for causes and effects band 9 answer structure for causes/effects essay cause/effect model essay This is an example of cause/effect IELTS writing task 2 question: Generating ideas After you've read the question, you can clearly determine the problem: growing number of overweight people. But before you start to write your essay, it's a good idea to think of 2-3 causes and 2-3 possible effects of the problem. Causes of obesity: inactive lifestyle (relying on cars instead of walking, fewer physical demands at work, inactive leisure activities) unhealthy eating habits (eating fast-food, drinking high-calorie beverages, consuming large portions of food, eating irregularly) Effects of obesity: physical health problems loss of productivity depressions and mental disorders Now, after we've generated the main ideas for causes and effects, it's time to use these ideas in our essay. Band 9 answer structure As you know, there are many ways to structure your essay, but we'll use a structure that has been approved by many IELTS examiners to be high-scoring and coherent. Band-9 essay structure: Introduction Body paragraph 1 - causes Body paragraph 2 - effects Conclusion Let's take a look at each of these sections in detail. Introduction Write your introduction in two sentences: Sentence 1 - paraphrase the statement (you can use 'nowadays/today/these days' to start); Sentence 2 - say what you'll write about in your essay; Body paragraph 1 - causes Sentence 1 - state all the main causes of obesity; Sentences 2-3 - describe the first cause. Assume that your examiner has no knowledge in this area and you have to explain all the details to him. Sentences 4-5 - describe the second cause. Don't forget that it's useful to give examples while describing causes! Body paragraph 2 - effects Sentence 1 - state all the possible effects; Sentences 2-3 - explain the first effect and give an example; Sentences 4-6 - explain the second effect and support it with an example; Conclusion For the conclusion you need simply to restate the problem and sum up the causes and effects that you described in your body paragraphs: Model essay Nowadays the number of overweight people is constantly increasing. This essay will discuss the main reasons of this epidemic and then describe the possible effects of the problem. In my opinion, the foremost causes of obesity are inactive lifestyle and unhealthy eating habits. Today more and more people rely on cars instead of walking, have less physical demands at work and prefer inactive leisure activities. This results in burning less calories and gaining weight. Moreover, the problem is accentuated by the growing number of people, who eat irregularly and consume large portions of high-calorie food. For example, about 50% of the adult population in Europe with so-called disordered eating suffer from obesity. The possible effects of this problem include physical health problems and loss of productivity. First of all, obesity results in incorrect functioning of the human body and contributes to the risk of developing some chronic illnesses. For example, as body fat percentage increases, the person's metabolism worsens, which in turn may result in diabetes or heart diseases. Secondly, overweight people are very unhealthy and often suffer from stress and tiredness. This lessens their work capacity and results in lower productivity. For example, it has been proven that an obese person needs to put more effort to complete some task than a person with normal weight. To sum up, obesity is a big problem that affects a lot of people nowadays. It's mainly caused by inactive lifestyle and eating disorders and results in severe health problems and loss of productivity. (251 words)



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