



Reading On The Move

Why?

Cause and Effect

When telling *why* something has happened, we are describing **cause** and **effect**. The reason why something happens, or makes another thing happen, is the *cause*. The *effect* is what happens, or the result. A **cause-and-effect relationship** is when one event or action results in a different event or action. If you use the word *because* to show that two events or facts are connected, then they have a cause and effect relationship.

Example: *The flies were covered with sticky honey, so they could not fly.*

Cause: *The flies were covered with sticky honey.*

Effect: *They could not fly.*

Cause does not always come before effect. Sometimes the effect comes first in a sentence.

Example: *The floor was covered in flour because the jar had fallen over.*

Cause: *The jar had fallen over.*

Effect: *The floor was covered in flour.*

Words like **because**, **since**, **so**, **therefore**, and **as a result**, tell you that there may be a cause-and-effect relationship.

Examples: **Because** *it was so snowy, they canceled the party.*

Cause: *It was so snowy.*

Effect: *They canceled the party.*

*The flies couldn't free themselves from the honey, **therefore** they began to die.*

Cause: *The flies couldn't free themselves from the honey.*

Effect: *They began to die.*

*I didn't have enough money, **so** I couldn't go on the trip.*

Cause: *I didn't have enough money.*

Effect: *I couldn't go on the trip.*

Since *I was late to work again, I got fired.*

Cause: *I was late to work again.*

Effect: *I got fired.*

*He was honored by the President **as a result** of his brave actions.*

Cause: *His brave actions.*

Effect: *He was honored by the President.*

Underline the *cause* in each sentence. The first one is done for you.

1. The tree fell over because the wind was so strong.
2. I dropped my cell phone and now it is broken.
3. My paycheck was big because I worked extra hours.
4. As a result of his accident, he will be in a cast for three months.
5. Juan trained hard and took first place in the race.

Now underline the *effect* in each sentence.

6. Marta did not go to work today because she has the flu.
7. As a result of her wild driving, Silvia got a ticket.
8. The shoes did not fit because they were two sizes too small.
9. Frederick was having trouble breathing; therefore he was rushed to the hospital.
10. The farmers lost many of their crops due to the heavy rains.

Circle the answer that does **not** make sense in each sentence. Take a look at the example below:

Example: *I needed my umbrella because _____.*

a. *it was sunny.*

b. *it was raining.*

c. *it was windy.*

People use umbrellas to protect themselves from rain and also from the sun. Umbrellas do not work well when it is windy.

Now, you try!

11. He knew it was dinner time because _____.

a. his stomach was growling.

b. he could smell rice cooking.

c. the sun was going down.

12. Her teeth were very white because _____.

a. she drank a lot of milk.

b. she brushed them twice a day.

c. she had the dentist whiten them.

13. The dog barked loudly _____.

a. so his owner knew someone was at the door.

b. because the mailman walked by.

c. therefore he was taken on a walk.

14. Joanna did not wear any sunscreen _____.
- a. because it didn't smell good.
 - b. because she has sensitive skin.
 - c. therefore she got a sunburn.
15. John could not play in the game _____.
- a. because he was injured.
 - b. because he needed a shower.
 - c. because he was sick.

Complete each sentence by writing a *cause* or *effect*. The first one is done for you.

16. We could not find our keys therefore we were late for the show
_____.
17. _____
_____ therefore I will buy a new one.
18. I found twenty dollars on the ground _____
_____.
19. The dog wagged his tail _____
_____.
20. Since I left my phone at home _____
_____.

Cause and effect can be found in stories as well. Read the story below and answer the questions on the next page.

The Wind and the Sun

The wind boasted to the sun one day: "I am stronger than you by far. Just see how the dead leaves whirl and flee before me!"

The sun smiled. "You are mistaken," she said quietly.

"Let's see you prove it!" the wind snapped back.

Just then a traveler came down the road.

"I think I see my way of proving it," the sun said. "See that traveler down there? Let us agree that he who can make him take off his jacket is the stronger. You may have your turn first."

So the sun went behind a cloud, and the wind started to blow. The traveler's jacket flapped wildly. But the harder the wind tried to tear off the jacket, the more tightly the man drew it around him.

At last the wind gave up. "Go ahead! Have your try at it," he said.

Smiling, the sun came out from behind the cloud. She shined in all her glory, pouring her warm beams on the traveler.

"How hot it has suddenly grown!" the traveler said. And he took off his jacket.

- 21.** What causes the wind and the sun to have this competition?
- a. The sun thought she was stronger than the wind.
 - b. The wind thought he was stronger than the sun.
 - c. The traveler wanted to see who was strongest.
 - d. The wind did not like the traveler's coat.
- 22.** How did the wind try to get the traveler to take off his coat?
- a. He asked the traveler nicely to remove his coat.
 - b. He did not blow at all so the traveler became warm and took off his coat.
 - c. He blew as hard as he could.
 - d. He knocked the traveler down and took his coat.
- 23.** What was the effect of the wind's efforts?
- a. The traveler pulled his coat even tighter around himself.
 - b. The traveler zipped his coat up.
 - c. The traveler removed his coat.
 - d. The coat ripped due to the strength of the wind.
- 24.** What did the sun do to try to get the traveler to take off his coat?
- a. She asked the traveler nicely to remove his coat.
 - b. She shined upon the traveler making him too warm.
 - c. She hid behind a cloud.
 - d. She decided not to try to get the traveler to remove his coat.
- 25.** What was the effect of the sun's efforts?
- a. The traveler pulled his coat even tighter around himself.
 - b. The traveler unzipped his coat.
 - c. The traveler did not remove his coat.
 - d. The traveler removed his coat.

Answer Key

1. The tree fell over because the wind was so strong.
2. I dropped my cell phone and now it is broken.
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5. Juan trained hard and took first place in the race.
6. Marta did not go to work today because she has the flu.
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9. Frederick was having trouble breathing; therefore he was rushed to the hospital.
10. The farmers lost many of their crops due to the heavy rains.
11. c
12. a
13. c
14. a
15. b

In **16-20**, you should write a cause or effect that completes each sentence.
Use the example as a guide.

21. b
22. c
23. a
24. b
25. d