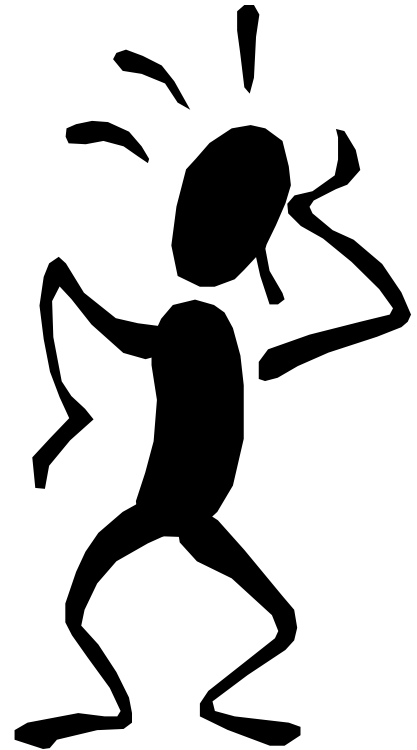


Cause and Effect (Targets LA07/IA17)

What is cause and effect?

- Cause and effect is a relationship between two things.
- When you read that one action or event is the result of another action or event, you are reading about a cause-and-effect relationship.
- Likewise, when one event leads to another event, you have a cause-and-effect relationship.
- A **cause** makes something happen.
- The **effect** is what happens; it's the result.
- Cause and effect relationships occur whenever one event makes other events happen.
 - Sometimes **one event** causes **one** other event.
 - Sometimes **one event** causes **more than one event**.
 - Sometimes **one event** causes a **series of events**.
 - And **sometimes there are many events that cause another event**.





Why do we need to know and identify cause and effect?

- You use cause and effect every day when you solve problems and make decisions.
- Learning to identify cause and effect relationships can help you understand what has happened and why it has happened.

How can you help your students identify a cause and effect relationship?

- Look for stated cause-and-effect relationships

The cause always happens before the effect: something happens, which leads to a result. Sometimes the writer clearly states what makes something happen and why it happens. But the cause and effect do not have to be presented in order in the passage. The effect may be presented first, even though the cause occurred earlier. For example:

- The North Pole has 24 hours of daylight on the first day of the summer, because the sun never drops below the horizon on that day.
 - **Effect:** the North Pole has 24 hours of daylight on the first day of summer.
 - **Cause:** the sun never drops below the horizon on that day

- Look for unstated cause-and-effect relationships

In some paragraphs, the cause-and-effect relationship is not directly stated. In these cases, you will have to infer or "read between the lines" to find the cause-and-effect relationship. Use clues from the paragraph to identify a cause-and-effect relationship.

- To find the effect, ask yourself: "What happened?"
- To find the cause, ask yourself: "Why did it happen?"

- Look for signal words



Look for the **signal** words that show cause-and-effect relationships. Here are some common words that frequently signal cause and effect:

accordingly	cause	finally	led to	since
affect	consequently	for	on account of	so
as a result	contributed to	hence	outcome	therefore
because	created by	if ... then	reason	thus
bring about	effect	in order that	results in	why

- Look for verbs that express a cause and effect relationship.

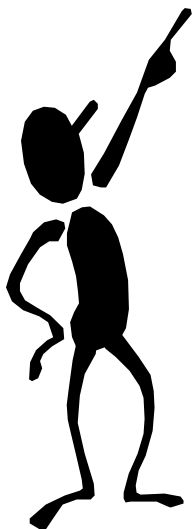
Sometimes you can discover a cause and effect relationship by paying attention to the verbs in the selection. Certain verbs are causative verbs and communicate a cause and effect connection. If you are unsure whether a verb is a causative verb, look it up in a dictionary to see whether the verb describes an effect on thing has on another. Here are some common causative verbs:

allowed	darken	dissolve	inflate	produce
create	demand	energize	lighten	require
combine	destroy	expand	make	sharpen

- Look for effects that are also causes

Effects can form a chain in which one effect goes on to cause a second effect, which may then cause a third effect and so on.

Here is an example:



When people cut down trees to clear land, they destroy the habitats of birds. This reduces the number of nest sites. As a result, fewer baby birds are hatched, and the bird population declines.

- **Cause 1:** People cut down trees.
- **Effect 1:** The habitats of birds are destroyed.
- **Effect 2:** The number of nest sites is reduced.
- **Effect 3:** Fewer baby birds are hatched.
- **Effect 4:** The bird population declines.

LA07 WASL Stem Questions

Multiple Choice Stems (1 Point)

- Which sentence best describes (character's) response to (character) in the story/selection/poem?
- Why does (character) (action)?
- Why does (character) decide to _____?
- Which sentence explains why (event) happened in the story/selection/poem?
- According to the story/selection/poem, what happens/happened when (action)?

Short Answer Stem (2 Points)

- Explain why (event) happened. Include **two** details from the story/selection/poem in your answer.

Extended Response Stems (4 Points)

- How did (character's experience in story/selection/poem) influence (character's growth or development)? Include **three** details from the story/selection/poem in your answer.
- What problem does (character) experience in the story/selection/poem? What are **three** events that happen as a result of the problem? Include information from the story/selection/poem in your answer.
- What problem does (character) experience in the story/selection/poem? What are **three** events that contribute to the resolution of the problem? Include information from the story/selection/poem in your answer.

IA17 WASL Stem Questions

Multiple Choice Stems (1 Point)

- Which sentence best explains why (event) happened?
- Why does (character/subject) (action)?
- According to the selection, what happens when (action)?

Short Answer Stems (2 Points)

- Explain why (event) happened. Include **two** details from the selection in your answer.
- What problems are associated with _____? Include **one** problem from **each** selection in your answer. (to be used with a pair)

Extended Response Stems (4 Points)

- What problem does (person) experience in the selection? What are **three** events that happen as a result of the problem? Include information from the selection in your answer.
- What problem does (person) experience in the selection? What are **three** events that contribute to the resolution of the problem? Include information from the selection in your answer.