Academic English

Section 6: Cause and Effect

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Cause

Event or action that makes something happen

Why did this happen?
Effect

What happens as a result of an action or event

What happened?
Cause/Effect:

Effect

Cause

Cause

Cause
Cause/Effect:

Effect

Water contamination

Cause

- Heavy metals
  - Hg, Pb, Cu, As, Cd

- Organic pollutants
  - hydrocarbons
  - detergents
  - insecticides

- Inorganic pollutants
  - (fertilizers)
Cause/Effect:

Cause

Water pollutants

Effect

- acute and chronic toxic response
- wreak havoc on the environment and biodiversity
- overgrowth of plants and algae
# Cause and Effect Essay Structure

<table>
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<th>Chain</th>
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<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Causes</td>
<td>Cause</td>
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<td>Effect 1</td>
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<td>Effect 1</td>
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<td>Effect 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conclusion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Cause and effect vocabulary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Because</strong></th>
<th>The economy is in recession <strong>because</strong> the banks crashed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Because of</strong></td>
<td>The economy is in recession <strong>because of</strong> the failure of the banks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As a result</strong></td>
<td>Demand in the labour market has fallen <strong>and as a result</strong> unemployment has risen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As a result of</strong></td>
<td>Unemployment has risen <strong>as a (direct) result of</strong> a fall in demand in the labour market.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As a consequence</strong></td>
<td>More and more roads are being built <strong>and as a consequence</strong> air pollution is rising.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>As a consequence of</strong></td>
<td>International cooperation has improved <strong>as a consequence of</strong> globalisation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thanks to</strong></td>
<td>Literacy rates have improved <strong>thanks to</strong> better primary education.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Due to</strong></td>
<td>Many commentators believe that the increase in crime is <strong>due to</strong> rising poverty levels.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prepositional phrases indicating causality

200,000 people per year become deaf owing to a lack of iodine.
because of as a result of as a consequence of

Sentence connectors indicating causality

If undernourished children do survive to become adults, they have decreased learning ability. Therefore, Consequently, Because of this, As a result (of this),
when they grow up, it will probably be difficult for them to find work.
## Verbs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Violence in films has probably <strong>caused</strong> crime to rise.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lead to</td>
<td>Intensive farming has <strong>led to</strong> many smallholders becoming unemployed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result in</td>
<td>Poor diet and lack of exercise has <strong>resulted in</strong> a generation who will die younger than their parents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make</td>
<td>Certain stars from the world of entertainment deserve their salaries as they <strong>make</strong> many people very happy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Create</td>
<td>Excess consumption of fossil fuels has helped to <strong>create</strong> many of the environmental problems today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>Mass immigration has undoubtedly <strong>changed</strong> many societies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affect</td>
<td>The problems of air pollution <strong>affect</strong> the quality of life in many parts of the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verbs indicating causality

Lack of protein may cause can lead to can result in mental disability.

http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/explaining-cause-and-effect/
More verbs

Other verbs:
Give rise to    Is attributed to    accounts for
bring about    affect/influence    trigger/induce/provoke
contribute to   stimulate          generate
facilitate     determine          stem from/derive from
Parental attitude largely determines how well a child adapts to school. [is the main factor affecting]
The teacher motivated them to work hard. [made them want to do something positive]
The flow of traffic through the town is facilitated by the one-way system. [made easier]
The speech provoked an angry response. [caused, usually something negative]
The explosion was triggered by the heat. [started, usually something sudden and negative]
The tilting of the earth on its axis accounts for the change in the seasons. [explains]
Sid’s determination springs/stems from his desire to improve the world. [is the result of]
The country’s victory gave rise to a new mood in society.
The mobile phone contributed to the information revolution. [was one factor influencing]
The child was given drugs to stimulate growth. [cause something to develop or function]
The exhibition generated a lot of interest. [aroused, caused to exist]
The drugs may induce nausea. [cause, often used in a medical context]
Nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>One cause of this problem is a fall in educational standards.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reason</td>
<td>There are a variety of reasons why this has happened/for this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect</td>
<td>Falling educational standards have had a variety of negative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>effects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Result</td>
<td>One positive result of this would be better international</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cooperation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
More nouns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>other nouns:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chain reaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>precedent for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outcome to</td>
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<tr>
<td>origin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>impact on</td>
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<tr>
<td>source of</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Nouns indicating causality

One *reason* why Xs have declined is that ...
The most likely *causes* of X are poor diet and lack of exercise.
The *causes* of X have been the subject of intense debate within.
A *consequence* of vitamin A deficiency is blindness.
X can have profound health *consequences* for older people.
Physical activity is an important *factor* in maintaining fitness.
Many other medications have an *influence* on cholesterol levels.

[http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/causes.htm](http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/causes.htm)
Causality and hedging

- A fundamental contributor to the Green revolution has been the development and application of pesticides for the control of a wide variety of pests that would otherwise diminish the quantity and quality of food produce.
- There is overwhelming evidence that agricultural use of pesticides has a major impact on water quality and leads to serious environmental consequences.
- The largest usage tends to be associated with a small number of pesticide products.
- Irrigated agriculture usually requires modification of the hydrological regime which, in turn, creates habitat that can be conducive to breeding of insects such as mosquitoes which are responsible for a variety of vector-borne diseases.
- Tetrachlorohydroquinone, a toxic metabolite of the biocide pentachlorophenol, was found to produce "significant and dose-dependent DNA damage".

Adapted from http://www.fao.org/docrep/w2598e/w2598e07.htm
References

- http://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/caauses.htm
End of Section
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