

Activity Type

Grammar and Writing Exercises: identifying, combining sentences, writing an outline and essay

Focus

Cause and effect signal words

Aim

To review and practice cause and effect signal words.

Preparation

Make one copy of the four-page worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

75 minutes

Introduction

In this cause and effect signal words worksheet, students review and practice signal words that can be used in a cause and effect essay

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the four-page worksheet.

Students start by previewing a table illustrating the usage of various cause signal words.

Students then analyse sentences containing cause signal words, identifying the part of the sentence that introduces the cause, the cause signal word and the grammar structure that follows the cause signal.

Exercise A - Answer key

2. [Because of] its grand history, beautiful art, and delicious food, Rome is popular with tourists.

Because of is followed by verb+ing or a noun.

3. [The effect of] high inflation is that it erodes people's purchasing power.

The effect of is followed by verb+ing or a noun.

4. Her business has been a great success, [for] all of her hard work and planning.

For can join two verbs, two nouns, two adjectives, two phrases, or two independent clauses.

Next, students preview a table illustrating the usage of various effect signal words and repeat the same procedure as the first exercise.

Exercise B - Answer key

1. The team has lost all of its games so far; [thus], not many fans are going to their home games.

Thus normally comes at the start of a sentence and is followed by a comma. When used in the middle of a sentence to connect two clauses, it is preceded by a semi-colon and followed by a comma.

(continued on the next page)

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Procedure continued

Exercise B - Answer key

2. Recent changes to the curriculum have [resulted in] more students passing the national exam.

Result in is followed by verb+ing or a noun.

3. The city has a very healthy economy, [so] its population is growing at a rapid pace.

So can join two verbs, two nouns, two adjectives, two phrases, or two independent clauses.

4. The high price of fuel is [the reason for] more people riding the subway.

Reason for is followed by a noun phrase.

After that, students read sentence pairs and decide which expresses a cause and which expresses an effect. Students then combine the sentences using a suitable signal word.

Exercise C - Suggested answers

1. Apartment prices have increased (effect) **because** there is strong buyer demand (cause).
2. There was a big corruption scandal (cause); **thus**, the government was not re-elected (effect).
3. **Since** they provide people with many opportunities (cause), cities are growing rapidly (effect).
4. Many towns and villages were destroyed (effect) **due to** a powerful typhoon (cause).
5. ABC Bakery makes the best bread and cakes in town (cause); **as a result**, there is always a long queue outside (effect).
6. There are too many accidents on the road (effect) **as** motorists do not pay attention to the traffic rules (cause).

Next, students choose a topic and create a cause and effect essay outline.

Finally, students use the outline to write a cause and effect essay to practice the cause and effect signal words from the worksheet.

Cause Signal Words

Coordinators <i>for</i>	Sir Isaac Newton is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time, for he discovered the laws of gravity and motion and invented calculus.
Subordinators <i>because</i> <i>since</i> <i>as</i>	Sir Isaac Newton is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time because / since / as he discovered the laws of gravity and motion and invented calculus.
Others to result from to be the result of due to because of the effect of the consequence of as a result of as a consequence of	<p> Enrico Fermi being commonly referred to as the father of the nuclear age resulted from / is the result of him developing the very first nuclear reactor. </p> <p> Enrico Fermi is commonly referred to as the father of the nuclear age due to / because of his development of the very first nuclear reactor. </p> <p> One effect of / consequence of nuclear power being neither safe nor clean is that Germany is phasing out all of its nuclear power plants. </p> <p> Germany is phasing out all of its nuclear power plants as a result of / as a consequence of nuclear power being neither safe nor clean. </p>

A. For each of the sentences below, underline the part that shows a cause. Draw brackets around the word or phrase that introduces the cause. Then, write down the grammar structure that follows each cause word or phrase.

1. Social media has become extremely popular [since] it allows people to stay connected with friends and family.

..... *After subordinators such as since, a clause containing a subject and verb follows.*

2. Because of its grand history, beautiful art, and delicious food, Rome is popular with tourists.

.....

3. The effect of high inflation is that it erodes people's purchasing power.

.....

4. Her business has been a great success, for all of her hard work and planning.

.....

Effect Signal Words

Transition words and phrases <i>as a result</i> <i>as a consequence</i> <i>therefore</i> <i>thus</i> <i>hence</i>	Sir Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravity and motion and invented calculus; as a result / as a consequence / therefore / thus / hence , he is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time.
Coordinators <i>so</i>	Sir Isaac Newton discovered the laws of gravity and motion and invented calculus, so he is considered one of the greatest scientists of all time.
Others to result in to cause to have an effect on to affect the cause of the reason for	Enrico Fermi developing the very first nuclear reactor resulted in / caused him to be commonly referred to as the father of the nuclear age. The accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant had a negative effect on / affected the atmosphere and water of the local area. Nuclear power being neither safe nor clean is the cause of / the reason for Germany phasing out all of its nuclear power plants.

B. For each of the sentences below, underline the part that shows an effect. Draw brackets around the word or phrase that introduces the effect. Then, write down the grammar structure that follows each effect word or phrase.

1. The team has lost all of its games so far; thus, not many fans are going to their home games.

.....

2. Recent changes to the curriculum have resulted in more students passing the national exam.

.....

3. The city has a very healthy economy, so its population is growing at a rapid pace.

.....

4. The high price of fuel is the reason for more people riding the subway.

.....

C. In the sentence pairs below, decide which is the cause and which is the effect. Then, combine them into a single sentence using an appropriate signal word.

1. Apartment prices have increased. There is strong buyer demand.

.....

2. There was a big corruption scandal. The government was not re-elected.

.....

3. Cities provide people with many opportunities. Cities are growing rapidly.

.....

4. Many towns and villages were destroyed. There was a powerful typhoon.

.....

5. ABC Bakery makes the best bread and cakes in town. There is always a long queue outside.

.....

6. There are too many accidents on the road. Motorists do not pay attention to the traffic rules.

.....

D. Choose one of the topics below and create a block structure essay outline that lists causes and effects.

poor grades a lack of sleep money problems broken relationships

Thesis statement:

Causes

Cause 1:

Explanation:

Cause 2:

Explanation:

Effects

Effect 1:

Explanation:

Effect 2:

Explanation:

