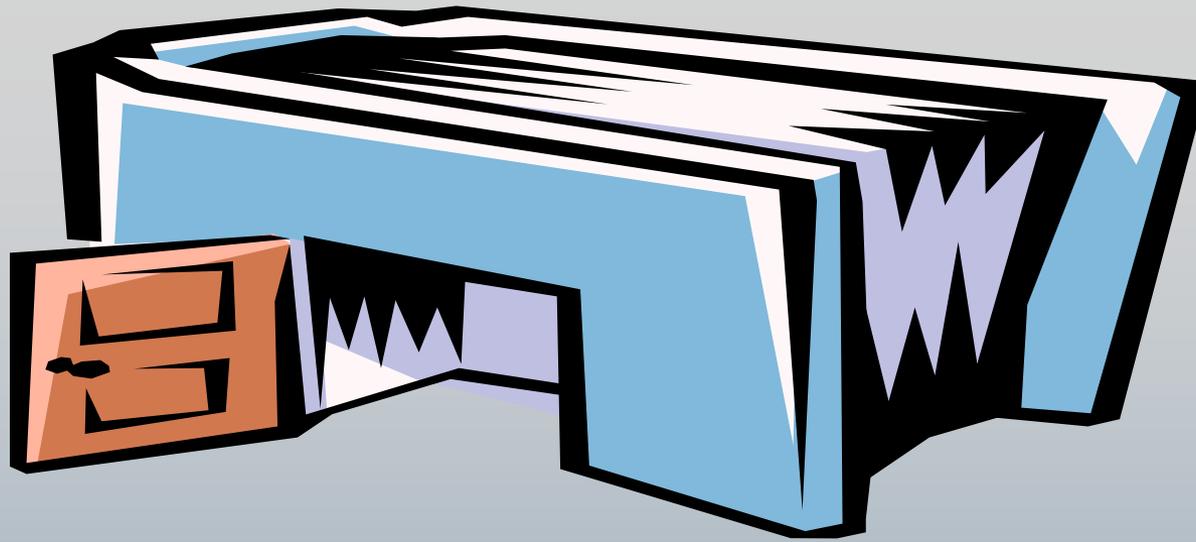




Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program

RPDP.net



Reading Strategies for Nonfiction Cause and Effect

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Reading Specialist

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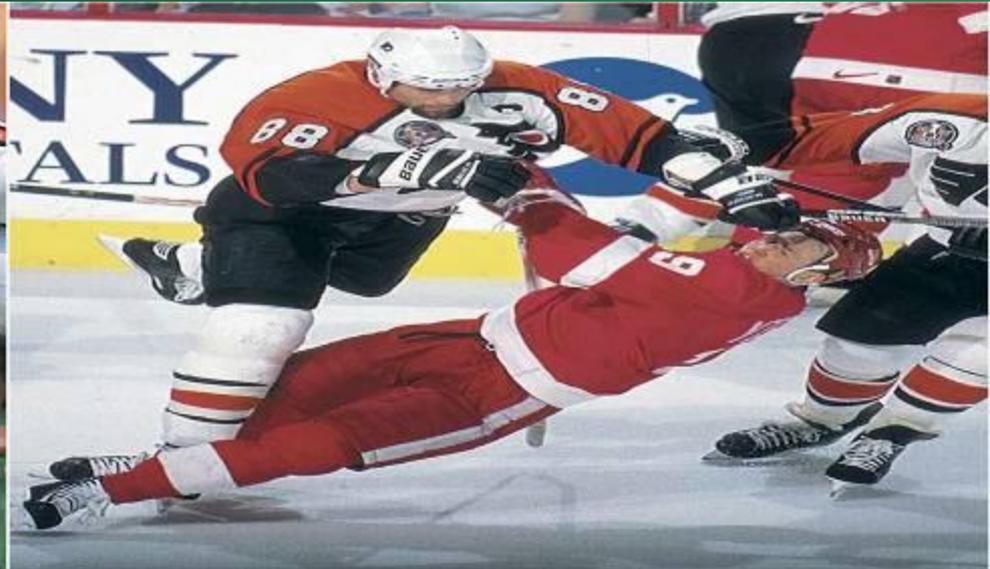


Today's Objectives

We will discuss -

- difference between causes and effects in nonfiction text.
- strategies to distinguish between causes and effects.

Cause and Effect



Cause and Effect

- Nothing happens without a reason or without some kind of consequence.
- When you explain **why** things happen and **what** occurs when they do, the technique you use is called **cause and effect**.

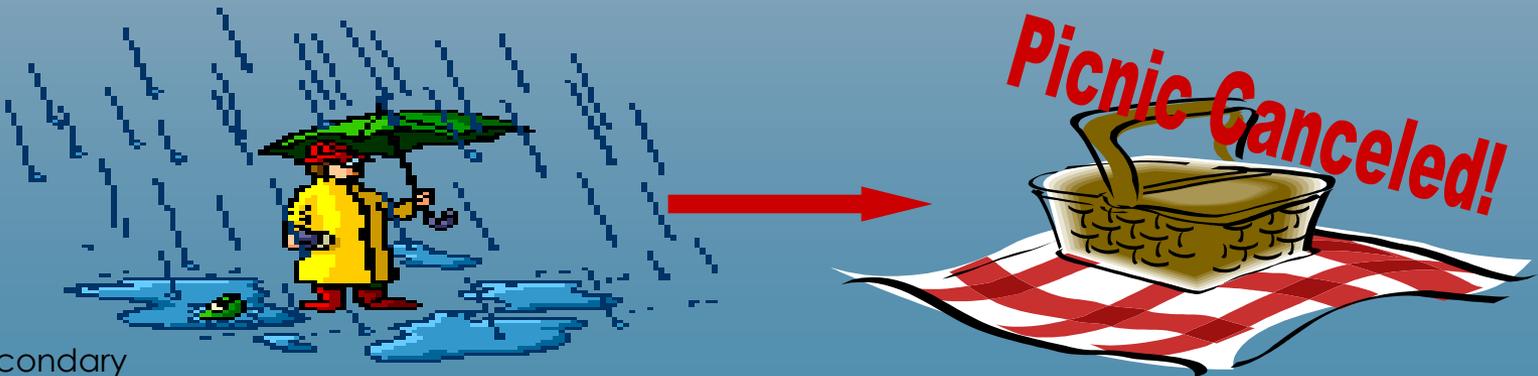


Cause and Effect

Cause is **why** something happened.

Effect is the **result** of what happened.

Because effects always have causes and causes always lead to effects, we rarely see one without the other.



Cause and Effect

- **The cause is the first thing that happens.**
- It makes the second thing (the effect) happen.
- The part of the sentence after the word **because** is the cause.

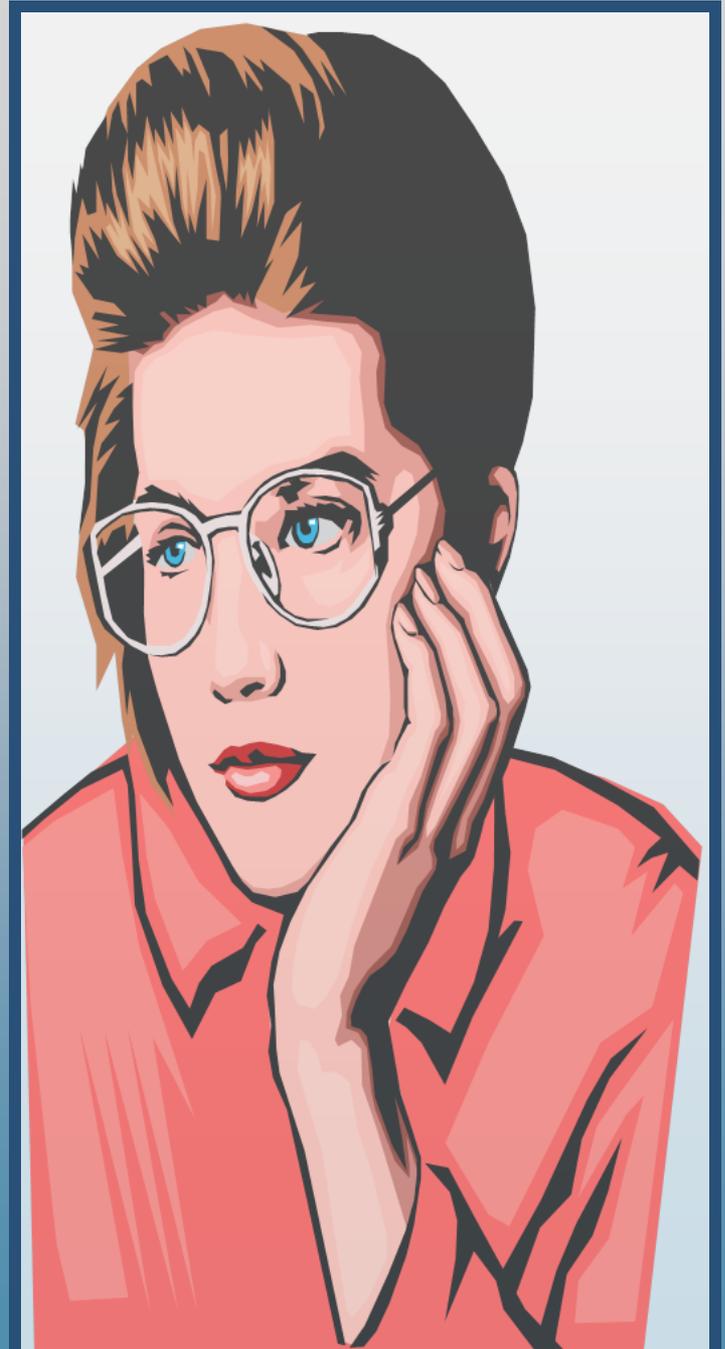
Example:

I stayed home from school
because I had the flu.



Remember -

**The cause
answers
the
question
why?**



Cause and Effect

- **The effect is the second thing that happens.**
- The effect answers the questions:
What happened?
What was the result?



Example:

Jaime was going too fast and fell off his bicycle.

What happened because Jaime was going too fast?

Understanding Cause and Effect Relationships

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



Use your prior knowledge.

Look for effects that are also causes.

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

Example:

When people pollute rivers, they destroy the habitats of fish. This reduces the number of fish that can reproduce. As a result, fewer fish are born in fresh water, and the fish population declines.

Cause 1: People pollute rivers .

Effect 1: The habitats of fish are destroyed.

Effect 2: Fewer fish can reproduce.

Effect 3: Fewer fish are born in fresh water.

Effect 4: The fish population declines.



Understanding Cause and Effect Relationships

- You use cause and effect every day when you solve problems and make decisions.
- As a result, understanding causes and effects is extremely important in day-to-day living.
- Learning to identify cause and effect relationships helps you understand what is happening in the world around you.



Clue Words for Cause

These expressions indicate **cause** -

- Because...
- Since...
- Cause..
- Reason..
- So that
- Unless..
- The main reason...



Let's see how this works –

As a result of his bad fall, Professor Green is wearing bandages and a cast.





Helpful Tip

Try this idea when you are not sure.

When you answer a question that begins with **why**, try putting the word **because** in front of your answer choices. Then read the choices this way to help figure out the correct answer.

Example

The crime rate in Mr. Leon's neighborhood was very high. Many houses had been robbed and cars vandalized. All the neighbors were upset. The mayor ordered the police to patrol the neighborhood. Within two weeks, the neighborhood's crime rate dropped drastically. Finally, everyone felt safe again.



Why did the crime rate drop?

- A. All the neighbors were upset.
- B. Houses and cars were robbed and vandalized.
- C. The mayor called for added police protection.
- D. Everyone in the neighborhood felt safe again.



Why did the crime rate drop?

- A. **Because** all the neighbors were upset.
- B. **Because** houses and cars were robbed and vandalized.
- C. **Because** the mayor called for added police protection.
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See how easy this is?

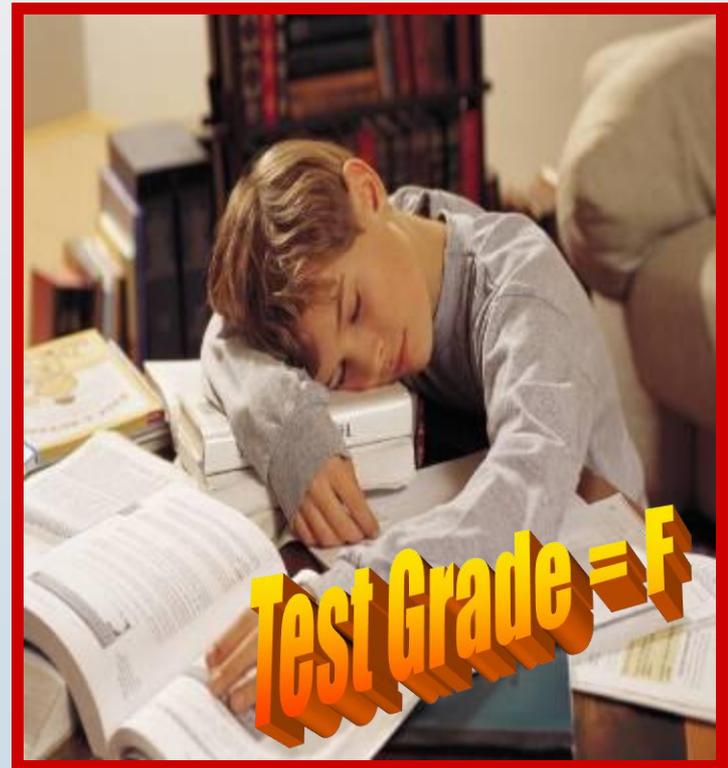




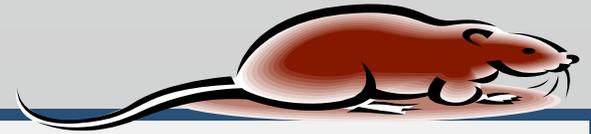
Clue Words for Effect

These expressions indicate **effect** -

- As a result of
- If
- Consequently
- Effect
- Therefore
- Thus



Read this Paragraph.



About 75 million people died from the bubonic plague during the 14th century. Half of the population of Italy fell victim to the disease. The plague caused high fever, swollen glands, dark bruises or sores on the face, and spitting of blood. Most people who got the disease died within five days. The disease was spread by fleas from rats. Lack of sanitation and poor medical knowledge account for the continuous plague epidemics throughout the 14th century.



Practice Question

What caused so many people to die from the bubonic plague?

- A. Lack of sanitation and poor medical knowledge account for the continuous plague epidemics.
- B. The dead were buried without the usual prayers.
- C. Italy was constantly at war.
- A. The victims got large bruises or sores on the face.





Practice Question

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Practice Question

Marcia was a skilled and capable driver. She had driven all the way from New Mexico in her brand-new car without any problems. Suddenly, because she hit a long patch of frozen ice, she lost control and the car ended up in a ditch. As she climbed out, she realized that the car was demolished.

What was the cause of Marcia's accident?

- A. She was very tired from the long drive.
- B. The road was icy.
- C. The car was new.
- D. She landed in a ditch.



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How did you do?

Practice Question

The simple sneeze is actually a complex reaction. The impulse to sneeze comes from irritation of a group of nerves in back of the eyes. When the signals reach the brain, the body takes a quick breath, then muscles contract violently. Finally, the sound “kerchoo” comes out.

What is the initial cause of sneeze?

- A. Nerves are irritated.
- B. The brain is signaled.
- C. Eyes are irritated.
- D. Muscles contract violently.



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Carlos Palomino was a champion boxer. Yet he gave up boxing and earned a degree in recreation. He chose this field because he wanted to work with kids. Not everyone can become a paid athlete, he says. That's why school is so important for all young people. Carlos hopes his example will help others set high goals in education as well in sports.

Why did Carlos get the degree in recreation?

- He had earned many honors.
- He wanted to work with kids.
- Not everyone can become a paid athlete.
- He was an ideal boxer.



Practice Question

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It's important to know-
It's important to know-



A good reader is also a good detective.



Key Strategies and Terms

Today we discussed -

- Causes
- Effects
- Clue Words
- Cause and Effect Relationships



**It doesn't matter whether you
read or nonfiction -**

Remember!

**As long as
you take
the time to
read!**



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