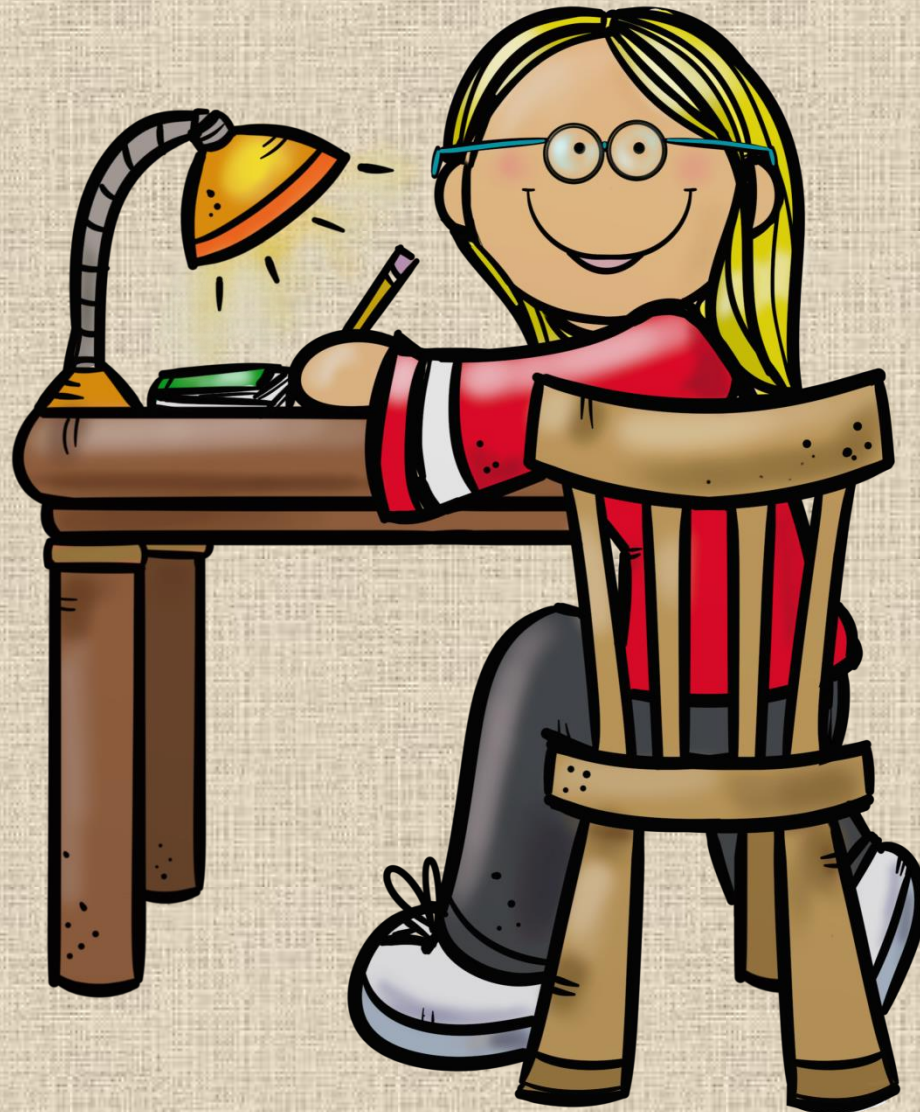


Cause and Effect



Understanding cause-and-effect relationships is an essential skill for students, as it helps them grasp how events are interconnected and how one event can lead to another.

In this post, I explain how to teach cause and effect using clear examples and engaging activities. I've also included a video lesson to demonstrate these concepts effectively. The video is embedded below, with handouts and an answer key to guide your students through the lesson.

What is Cause and Effect?

Cause and effect relationships describe how one event (the cause) leads to another event (the effect). Teaching students to identify these relationships helps them understand the logical connections between events and ideas.

Basic Examples to Illustrate Cause and Effect:

Example #1 – The boy fell because water was on the floor.

Effect: The boy fell.

Cause: Water was on the floor.

Example #2 – The students left the school when the fire alarm went off.

Effect: Students left the school.

Cause: The fire alarm sounded.

Example #3 – The school was closed due to last night's large snowfall.

Effect: School closed.

Cause: A large amount of snow fell.

Teaching Cause and Effect



Use signal words:

- ✓ **because**
- ✓ **so**
- ✓ **therefore**
- ✓ **as a result of**
- ✓ **due to**

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To help students locate cause-and-effect relationships in texts, teach them to look for signal words such as:

- because
- so
- therefore
- as a result of
- due to

Pollution Many Causes > One Effect



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One Cause with Many Effects

A blizzard can cause power outages, increased possibilities of hypothermia and frostbite, travel impediments, and property damage.

Blizzard One Cause > Multiple Effects



One Cause with Many Effects

A blizzard can cause power outages, increased possibilities of hypothermia and frostbite, travel impediments, and property damage.

Grandma Visits Chain Reaction



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Chain Reactions

Grandma visits. >>

Beth shares her bed with Grandma. >>

Grandma tosses and turns. >>

Beth wakes up grouchy.

Handouts for Video Lesson



You'll find the video
at these links:

[YouTube](#)

[Vimeo](#)

The Science Fair

One bright Tuesday morning, Jamie woke up feeling excited. Today was the school science fair, and Jamie had spent weeks preparing a project on renewable energy. Jamie's project involved a small model of a wind turbine that could generate electricity to power a small light bulb.

At the science fair, Jamie set up the project and began explaining how wind energy works to the judges. As Jamie was talking, a gust of wind from an open window started spinning the turbine's blades. The light bulb lit up, impressing the judges and earning Jamie a round of applause.

Later that afternoon, Jamie noticed another student's project—a solar oven. Intrigued, Jamie asked the student to explain how it worked. The student showed Jamie how the oven could cook food using just the sun's energy. Jamie thought it was fascinating and decided to try to make one at home.

At the end of the day, the winners were announced. Jamie's project won first place in the renewable energy category. Overjoyed, Jamie couldn't wait to share the news with family and friends. That evening, Jamie's parents took the family out for a celebratory dinner. Jamie felt proud and motivated to continue exploring new scientific ideas.



The Science Fair Project

What caused Jamie to be excited in the morning?

Why did the light bulb in Jamie's project light up?

How did Jamie learn about the solar oven?

What happened as a result of Jamie winning first place?

Cause

Effect

Jamie worked hard on a science project.

The solar panel absorbed sunlight.

Jamie researched renewable energy sources.

Jamie won first place at the science fair.

Jamie's parents were proud of Jamie's accomplishment.

The Science Fair Project

What caused Jamie to be excited in the morning?

Jamie was excited in the morning because it was the day of the school science fair, and Jamie had worked hard on a project.

Why did the light bulb in Jamie's project light up?

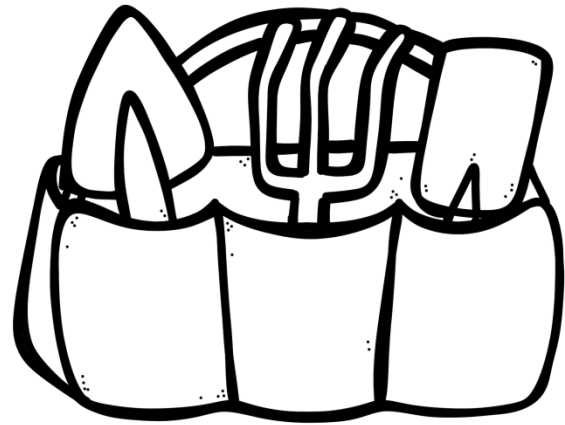
The light bulb in Jamie's project lit up because the solar panel absorbed sunlight and converted it into electricity.

How did Jamie learn about the solar oven?

Jamie learned about the solar oven by researching renewable energy sources and finding information about how solar ovens work.

What happened as a result of Jamie winning first place?

As a result of winning first place, Jamie received a trophy, a ribbon, and recognition from the school, and Jamie's parents were very proud.



The School Garden

One spring afternoon, Mrs. Thompson, the school principal, announced that the school would be starting a garden. She explained that the garden would be a place for students to learn about plants and nature. Excited by the idea, the students volunteered to help.

The first step was to clear a space in the schoolyard. Many students brought tools from home, and they worked together to remove weeds and rocks. After the space was cleared, they planted seeds for various vegetables and flowers.

As the weeks went by, the students took turns watering the garden and pulling out any new weeds that appeared. They also kept a journal to record the growth of the plants. One day, they noticed that the tomato plants had started to grow small green tomatoes.

When summer arrived, the garden was thriving. The students harvested the vegetables and used them to make a fresh salad for the school picnic. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food, and Mrs. Thompson praised the students for their hard work.

The garden project was so successful that Mrs. Thompson decided to continue it the following year. She also planned to add a compost bin to teach students about recycling organic waste.



The School Garden

1. What caused the students to bring tools from home?

2. What was the result of the students taking turns watering the garden?

3. Why did Mrs. Thompson decide to continue the garden project the following year?

4. What happened when the students harvested the vegetables?

Cause	Effect
Mrs. Thompson announced the school would start a garden.	
Students brought tools from home.	
Students took turns watering the garden.	
The tomato plants started to grow small green tomatoes.	
The students harvested the vegetables.	
The garden project was successful.	

The School Garden

1. What caused the students to bring tools from home?

- Mrs. Thompson's announcement about starting a school garden and the students' excitement to help.

2. What was the result of the students taking turns watering the garden?

- The plants grew healthy and strong.

3. Why did Mrs. Thompson decide to continue the garden project the following year?

- The garden project was successful.

4. What happened when the students harvested the vegetables?

- They made a fresh salad for the school picnic.

Cause	Effect
Mrs. Thompson announced the school would start a garden.	The students volunteered to help.
Students brought tools from home.	They cleared a space in the schoolyard.
Students took turns watering the garden.	The plants grew healthy and strong.
The tomato plants started to grow small green tomatoes.	The students noticed the tomatoes and recorded their growth.
The students harvested the vegetables.	They made a fresh salad for the school picnic.
The garden project was successful.	Mrs. Thompson decided to continue it the following year.

Links to Blog Posts

Text Structures Series

[Teaching Problems and Solutions](#)

[Teaching Compare and Contrast](#)

[Teaching Cause and Effect](#)

[Chronological, Sequential, and Consecutive Order](#)

Teaching Text Structures with Songs

[Teaching Problems and Solutions with Songs](#)

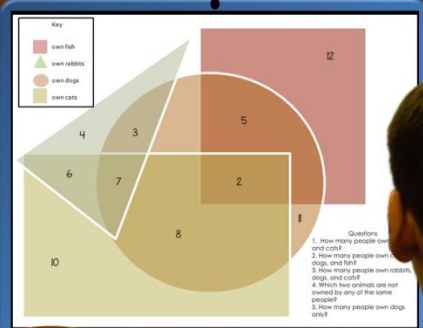
[Teaching Compare and Contrast with Songs](#)

[Teaching Cause and Effect with Songs](#)

[Teaching Sequencing with Songs](#)

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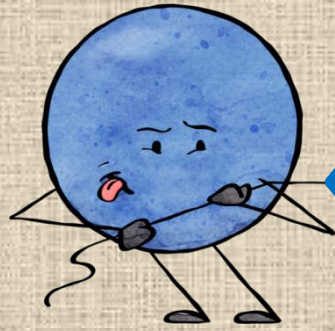
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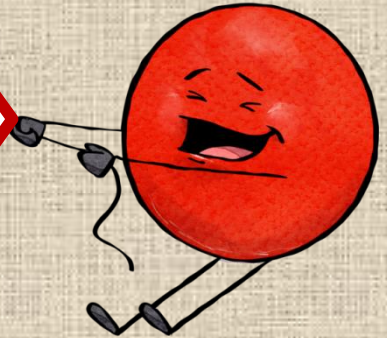




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