

Essay Type 2: The Cause & Effect Essay

What is a cause and effect essay?

- ▶ When writing a cause and effect essay often we start at the result of something and work back the way to discover the cause.
- ▶ When writing a cause and effect essay you must think **critically, analytically and think outside of the box.**
- ▶ Examples topics may include: **Obesity, Poverty, increased school fees, war, building projects that fail and the increasing cost of a healthy diet.**
- ▶ **TASK:** Choose one of the above examples and then identify 4 possible causes.

Language & Grammar needed

- ▶ **Phrases:** needed for introducing/outlining an effect: 1. Because of ; 2. As a result of
- ▶ **Verbs :** to express cause – result from; to be caused by
- ▶ **Verbs:** to express result – result in; cause; lead to.
- ▶ **Coordinating conjunctions:** so + result (inf); for +cause (for).
- ▶ **Introductory adverbs:** Therefore, consequently, thus +independent clause, as a result and for this reason.
- ▶ **HOMEWORK : P.250 Ex 21 –** Find and correct the errors in the text and identify the type of error that has occurred.



In class writing practice (p.233)


- ▶ Separate handout.



ORGANISING CAUSES: MODELS

- 1. **Order of familiarity:** This might be from your perspective or the reader's perspective. Your causes may be organised from the obvious to the less obvious.
 - 2. **Order of interest:** less to more interesting
 - 3. **Order of importance:** less to most significant.

 - *If you believe the causes have equal weight you can arrange them however you like

 - ****Immediate causes** are those which are central causes.
 - *** **Remote causes** are ones which may be less obvious but not necessarily less significant.
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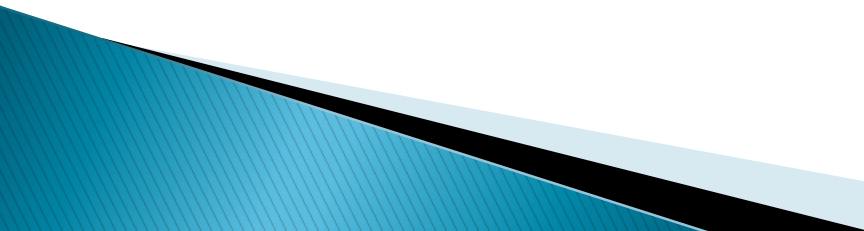
Immediate & Remote Causes

- ▶ Exercise 6 (p.234). Group A – Task A; Group B – Task B

The Thesis Statement in C & E

- ▶ **May simply state the cause to be discussed:**
 - ▶ “Conflicts over money, interfering relatives and career problems all contributed to the demise of their relationship”.

 - ▶ **Or it may simply summarise the causes:**
 - ▶ “Conflicts about several unresolved issues ultimately caused the demise of their relationship”.

 - ▶ **Practice:** Read the text: “Why our cars guzzle gas” on Page 237 and answer the questions that follow.
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False Cause Reasoning

- ▶ You must be careful you do not directly link events which happen at the same time and say X caused the problem Y. Do not simply assume X caused Y.
- ▶ **Example:** President X was elected in November. Three weeks later, there was an economic crash.
- ▶ Practice in distinguishing between **Chronological events (T)** and **Cause & effect (C/E)**: Exercise 8. Group A Qs 1–5; Group B Qs 6–10.

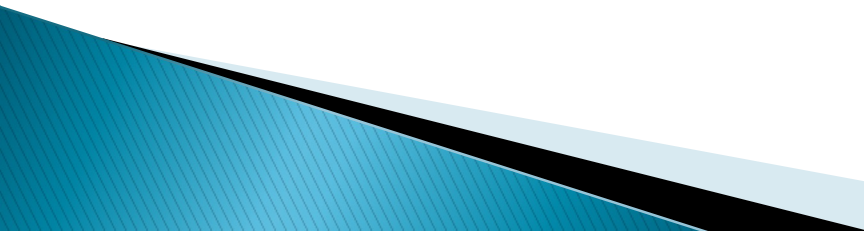
Exercise 8 – answers

- 1. T
- 2. T
- 3. C/E or T?
- 4. T
- 5. C/E
- 6. T
- 7. C/E
- 8. C/E
- 9. T
- 10. T
- **Sometimes it is hard to tell the difference! But think of T as a coincidence. For C/E you need hard evidence!!**

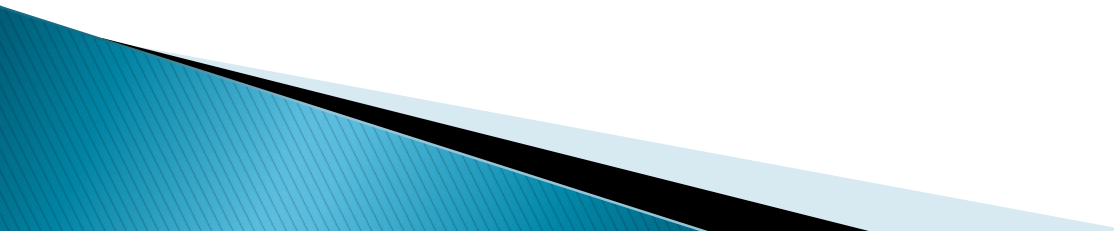
Sources of information

- ▶ When researching C/E it is important you find reliable information to support your ideas.
- ▶ Wikipedia is an example of an **UNRELIABLE** source.
Why??
- ▶ Research the author, publication source and publication date carefully. If it is very old, the information is not up to date!

Many effects and one cause

- ▶ So far we have looked at one effect with many causes but what about a single cause with many effects?
 - ▶ **Excessive sugar consumption** can have many effects such as: **Blood sugar imbalances, tooth decay, hyperactivity in children and weight gain.**
 - ▶ Each effect (in blue) should be an individual paragraph in your essay.
 - ▶ **HOMEWORK TASK:** See separate handout.
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Organising the effects

- ▶ Like causes, effects can be unrelated and some may be less important than others. Organise the effects according to their importance or significance.
 - ▶ Ex 12: Immediate v Remote Effects
 - ▶ **Group A complete Q1–4; Group B Q5–8.**
 - ▶ Then organise the effects into an essay outline.
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Thesis Statement: Effect Analysis Essay

- ▶ The thesis statement does not have to be persuasive. It can be a simply stated central idea. For example: “The tax increase will bring benefits to our city”.
- ▶ **Homework:** Reading text on p.241–242 “Do it” and answer the questions 1–5 on p.242.

The causal chain

- ▶ The causes and effects are always related and linked closely together with one effect often becoming the cause of another effect. This is also known as the **domino effect**. See p.243 for an example.
- ▶ **Ex 18 (p.246): Disaster in Southern California – Group A; Poverty – Group B.**

What is the causal chain in each one? With your partner write a paragraph explaining the causal chain.

Causal Chain – Homework assignment

- ▶ See separate handout.
- ▶ Due 30th March at 5pm. Submit via Moodle

Cause and Effect Stage 3 assignment

- ▶ See separate handout.
 - ▶ Due Week 11 at 5pm. Submit in my office (A257) or via university email account only.
 - ▶ Must be typed, font size 12 or larger and sheets must be stapled, bound or enclosed in a plastic wallet.
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