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Cause and Effect

W.1.2, 3, 5, 6

You like to know why something happens. For example, if a book falls from a table, it will make a loud noise. The cause of the sound is the book falling. The loud noise is the effect.

A **cause** is why something happens. An **effect** is what happens. Understanding cause and effect is important. For cause, ask “Why did this happen?” For effect, ask “What happened because of this?”

Your reading makes more sense when you understand these why connections. There are clue words that can help you see cause and effect.

Clue Words for Cause

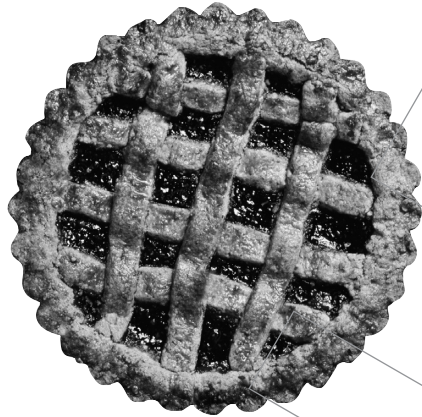
if
because
since
due to

Clue Words for Effect

then
so
this is why
as a result

Guided Practice.

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.



Where Did the Pie Go?

By Billie Jo Stengel

Father and Ann wanted to surprise Mother. They were going to bake her a blueberry pie. First, they mixed together all the flour and sugar. Then they mixed the other things together. Finally, they baked the pie in the oven. When it was done, Ann took it from the oven. It was very hot. So, she put it on the windowsill to cool. Then she and Father went for a walk.

Soon, Mother came home. Ann was happy to see her. She wanted to show her the surprise. She led Mother into the kitchen. But there was an even bigger surprise. There was no blueberry pie!

Then Ann saw her dog, Spike. He looked strange. His face was purple. And, he was backing away from Ann. He knew that he had done something bad.

At the end of the story, Ann wonders what happened to the pie. Write a note to Ann. Explain what happened to the pie. Be sure to include:

- the reason why the pie is missing
- the word because

Step 1: Prewriting

Let's look at how one student, Manuel, answered the question. He used details from the story to write an answer to the question. Manuel read the question slowly and carefully.

Then he read it again. This time he underlined important words. These helped him know what to write.

What are some words that Manuel underlined?



Read
Note
Organize



Underline words that tell what you are to write. Other important words tell the audience and subject. Here is a sample answer:

note to Ann

Step 2: Drafting

Read Manuel's draft. Then answer the questions.

Dear Ann.

Do you know what happened to the pie! The pie was on the windowsill. Your Spike dog came into the kitchen. He was hungry. He saw the pie on the windowsill. Then he eight it. Now, he has a purple face. It is because he ate the cherry pie.

Your friend,

Manuel

Find an effect in the letter and underline it.

✓ Effects are the result of something that happened. Here is a sample answer:

Now, he has a purple face.

Manuel is now ready to revise his draft.

Step 3: Revising

Read Manuel's revised draft. Then answer the questions.

Dear Ann.

Do you know what happened to the pie! The pie
Then you and your dad went for a walk.
was on the windowsill. Your Spike dog came into
the kitchen. He was hungry. He saw the pie on the
windowsill. Then he eight it. Now, his face is purple.
blueberry
face. It is because he ate the cherry pie.

Your friend,

Manuel

Why did Manuel add a sentence?

✓ Writers often add details to make their meaning clearer. Here is a sample answer:

Manuel added it to tell why Ann and her father did not see Spike.

Step 4: Editing

Read the revised draft on page 62 again. Find and correct three more mistakes.

Mistake 1: _____

Mistake 2: _____

Mistake 3: _____



This is the last chance to check your work. Look for misspelled words. Look for punctuation that is incorrect. Here are the correct answers:

Mistake 1: Change the period to a comma after the greeting.

Mistake 2: Change the exclamation point to a question mark in sentence 1.

Mistake 3: Change eight to ate in sentence 7.

The last step is for Manuel to publish his work.

Step 5: Publishing

You publish something by sharing it with others. Manuel is ready to share his work. He can do this by turning in his work to the teacher.

Test Yourself

Read the story. Then answer the questions.

Peter and the Dike

A long time ago, there was a boy named Peter. He lived in a town near the sea. The town had dikes built around it. These walls or dams kept the sea from flooding the town. Peter was only 8 years old. But he was strong and brave. His mother and father trusted him to do many things.

One day, Peter's mother baked some nice cakes. "Come," she called to Peter. "Take this basket of cakes to the blind man across the dike."

Peter did as he was asked. Crossing the dike on his way home, he heard something strange. It was the sound of running water. The dike was built to hold the water back. Now, there was a leak in the dike!

Peter jumped down to the bottom of the dike. He reached up and plugged the leak with one finger. Then he called loudly, "Help! Help! A leak in the dike!" Again and again he called. But no answer came. Soon, it became quite dark. Peter feared that he might fall asleep. His hand might slip from the dike. Peter knew very well that he was keeping the sea away from Holland. He knew that people's lives were in his care. No, he could not sleep.

Finally, at first light, a man found Peter. He heard Peter calling. He raced to town to get help. The dike was saved. And the happy people carried Peter home on their shoulders.

The story "Peter and the Dike" tells what happens when Peter takes a basket of cakes to a neighbor. In the middle of the story, Peter has a problem. Write three or more sentences to explain the problem. In your sentences, be sure to

- tell what Peter's problem is
- why he has a problem
- use the word because

1 What kind of writing will you do?



Read
Note
Organize

2 Show how you will plan your sentences. Fill in the chart. Then answer the question.



Read
Note
Organize

Why It Happened (Causes)	→ What Happened (Effects)

What should you tell about in your first sentence?

3 Write a draft of your sentences. Use your chart and idea about a first sentence. Remember to include the needed details and special word.

A series of horizontal lines for writing, with a large 'SAMPLE' watermark diagonally across the page.