

Exercise: Cause and Effect Essays

(a) Underline the cause and highlight its effect in each of the following sentences.

1. After the dog bit her, we had to take her to the hospital.
2. Her computer stopped working due to a virus.
3. The police arrested him because he committed a crime.
4. She set fire to the curtain first before the whole house burnt down.
5. If she gets accepted to university, she will become a doctor.
6. Unless she finds a replacement, she will be fired.
7. Owing to the lack of customers, the restaurant closed down this week.
8. Since she is scared of clowns, she never goes to the circus.
9. He passed his first year at university; as a result, his parents bought him a car.
10. She is lazy, therefore she has failed all of her subjects.

(b) Complete the sentence by filling in a cause or an effect as required. Circle what was needed to complete each sentence: cause or effect.

1. Melanie did not go to school because _____
_____.

cause/effect

2. Due to _____, Jason was late for work again.

cause/effect

3. Since Zinzi bought all the chocolate in the shop, Sarah _____
_____.

cause/effect

4. If _____, there
won't be enough space in the car.

cause/effect

5. Khulani works late every Friday so that _____
_____.

cause/effect

6. Since Jamie's parents found out about the party he hosted without their
permission, _____
_____.

cause/effect

7. Owing to _____, the
tickets were all sold out.

cause/effect

8. In view of Mandisa's fear of heights, _____
_____.

cause/effect

9. As a result of Thabo's silence, _____
_____.

cause/effect

10. Jenny shouted at Mark first _____
_____.

cause/effect

(c) Read through the following passage, underlining causes and highlighting effects.

I woke up late this morning **because** my alarm clock did not ring. **As a result**, I had to rush to get ready for school and I made a huge mess all over the house. I missed the bus **because** I had to go back home to fetch my cellphone. **Consequently**, I was late for school, and my lecturer was not pleased with me at all. **Due to the fact that** my day had been going so badly, I was in a bad mood and I shouted at my friends. **Since** I was in such a bad mood, they didn't want to hang out with me and they left. After they left, my day only got worse. **In view of** all that happened today, I've decided that I need two alarm clocks instead of one, to make sure I wake up on time in the mornings.

Now, tabulate your causes and the related effects using a table similar to the one below:

Cause	Effect
<i>eg. My alarm clock did not ring.</i>	<i>I woke up late.</i>

(d) You have been given a cause and its effects. Link the cause and its effects using a few sentences. Remember to use your **linking words**.

1. CAUSE: terrorist attack; bomb explosion

EFFECT: people killed; families grieving; multiple funerals

2. CAUSE: global warming

EFFECT: heat waves in summer; people fainting; overcrowding in hospitals

(e) Write a paragraph in which you explain something that happened to you in terms of its causes and effects.