Cause and Effect

A cause is the reason why something happens. The effect is what happens.

Example: There was a loud boom of thunder, and my dog began to scratch at the door.

Cause: Loud boom of thunder  Effect: The dog scratched at the door

Read each short scenario. Identify the cause and the effect for each.

1. In science class, Jessica mixed vinegar and baking soda together. The mixture began to fizz and bubble over.

   Cause: __________________________________________________________
   Effect: __________________________________________________________

2. My friend Elizabeth was talking during the quiz in Mrs. Jefferson’s class. Mrs. Jefferson told her she would have to stay inside during recess.

   Cause: __________________________________________________________
   Effect: __________________________________________________________

3. My mother made a grocery list, but she left it at home. Then, she forgot to buy the flour that we needed to make a cake.

   Cause: __________________________________________________________
   Effect: __________________________________________________________

4. It began to rain and storm just before our soccer game, so we had to cancel the game.

   Cause: __________________________________________________________
   Effect: __________________________________________________________

5. When the American states were still colonies of England, the king of England began to tax everything that the colonists shipped to England and that they tried to buy from England. The colonists decided that they would rather be independent, and they started a war with England.

   Cause: __________________________________________________________
   Effect: __________________________________________________________

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Answers Cause and Effect

A **cause** is the reason why something happens. The **effect** is what happens.
Example: There was a loud boom of thunder, and my dog began to scratch at the door.
   Cause: Loud boom of thunder  Effect: The dog scratched at the door

Read each short scenario. **Identify the cause and the effect for each.**

1. In science class, Jessica mixed vinegar and baking soda together. The mixture began to fizz and bubble over.
   Cause: _____Mixing vinegar and baking soda____________________________________
   Effect: _____The mixture fizzed and bubbled____________________________________

2. My friend Elizabeth was talking during the quiz in Mrs. Jefferson's class. Mrs. Jefferson told her she would have to stay inside during recess.
   Cause: __________Elizabeth talked during the quiz__________________________________
   Effect: __________Elizabeth had to miss recess____________________________________

3. My mother made a grocery list, but she left it at home. Then, she forgot to buy the flour that we needed to make a cake.
   Cause: ________Mom left the grocery list at home__________________________________
   Effect: ________Mom forgot the flour____________________________________________

4. It began to rain and storm just before our soccer game, so we had to cancel the game.
   Cause: ____________It began to rain and storm____________________________________
   Effect: ____________Soccer game was cancelled____________________________________

5. When the American states were still colonies of England, the king of England began to tax everything that the colonists shipped to England and that they tried to buy from England. The colonists decided that they would rather be independent, and they started a war with England.
   Cause: ____________King of England taxed items____________________________________
   Effect: ____________Colonists went to war__________________________________________

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