

Name: _____

Date: _____

Cause and Effect

Cause and effect is a way to describe the relationship between events. A **cause** is why something happens; an **effect** is what happens as a result.

Example: Jessica had to get a new phone because she dropped hers in a muddy puddle.

Cause: She dropped the phone in the puddle. Effect: She had to get a new phone.

Read each scenario and answer the questions about cause and effect.

1. Marie was excited about trying out for the school play. She had practiced her lines and even had a few friends give her tips. On the day of tryouts, Marie was very nervous, and she realized that she had stage-fright. Even though she tried to remember the lines, she couldn't. Marie was disappointed when she did not see her name on the list for the play.

a. What caused Marie to forget her lines?

b. What was the effect of forgetting her lines?

2. James and Kevin decided to work together on their science fair project. They wanted to see which brand of soft drink stayed fizzy the longest after it was opened. One afternoon, the boys opened 10 different cans of soft drink at Kevin's house and left them sitting on the table while they went outside to play. Kevin's mom was not happy when she came home to find the cat sitting in the middle of sticky puddle of soda.

a. What caused James and Kevin to leave 10 cans of soda on the table?

b. List two effects that resulted from them leaving 10 cans of soda on the table.

3. Mrs. Tanner was out sick on Monday, and we had a substitute teacher. Mrs. Tanner left us notes and practice problems in math, but we did not understand what we needed to do. The substitute did not know how to work the math problems either. She said she would leave Mrs. Tanner a note to let her know that we were having trouble. When Mrs. Tanner came back on Tuesday, she decided she would postpone our quiz for a day so that she could help us with

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the math problems. After Mrs. Tanner explained what to do, we realized it was actually very easy!

a. What caused Mrs. Tanner to be out of school?

b. What caused the substitute to leave Mrs. Tanner a note?

c. What was the effect of the note?

d. What was the effect of Mrs. Tanner explaining the math?

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Answers Cause and Effect

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Cause: She dropped the phone in the puddle. Effect: She had to get a new phone.

Read each scenario and answer the questions about cause and effect.

1. Marie was excited about trying out for the school play. She had practiced her lines and even had a few friends give her tips. On the day of tryouts, Marie was very nervous, and she realized that she had stage-fright. Even though she tried to remember the lines, she couldn't. Marie was disappointed when she did not see her name on the list for the play.

a. What caused Marie to forget her lines?

She was nervous; stage-fright

b. What was the effect of forgetting her lines?

She did not get to be in the play.

2. James and Kevin decided to work together on their science fair project. They wanted to see which brand of soft drink stayed fizzy the longest after it was opened. One afternoon, the boys opened 10 different cans of soft drink at Kevin's house and left them sitting on the table while they went outside to play. Kevin's mom was not happy when she came home to find the cat sitting in the middle of sticky puddle of soda.

a. What caused James and Kevin to leave 10 cans of soda on the table?

Their science fair project—they wanted to see which would be fizzy the longest.

b. List two effects that resulted from them leaving 10 cans of soda on the table.

The cat spilled the drinks; mom was not happy with the mess

3. Mrs. Tanner was out sick on Monday, and we had a substitute teacher. Mrs. Tanner left us notes and practice problems in math, but we did not understand what we needed to do. The substitute did not know how to work the math problems either. She said she would leave Mrs. Tanner a note to let her know that we were having trouble. When Mrs. Tanner came back on Tuesday, she decided she would postpone our quiz for a day so that she could help us with

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the math problems. After Mrs. Tanner explained what to do, we realized it was actually very easy!

- a. What caused Mrs. Tanner to be out of school?

She was sick.

- b. What caused the substitute to leave Mrs. Tanner a note?

The students did not understand the math that Mrs. Tanner left.

- c. What was the effect of the note?

Mrs. Tanner postponed the quiz to teach the math.

- d. What was the effect of Mrs. Tanner explaining the math?

The students understood the math.
