

Transitional Expressions

These transitional expressions are helpful in cause and effect paragraphs, which often imply order of importance or time order:*

Transitional Expressions	
<i>To Show Causes</i>	<i>To Show Effects</i>
the first cause (second, third)	one important effect
the first reason (second, third)	another result
yet another factor	a third outcome
because of	as a result
is caused by	consequently
results from	then, next, therefore, thus

PRACTICE 1

Read this paragraph and answer the questions.

Type 2 diabetes is a damaging blood sugar disease that often can be prevented, but new cases in the United States have doubled in just ten years. To protect themselves and their families from type 2 diabetes, all Americans, especially parents, should understand its possible causes. The most important cause is obesity. The more fatty tissue a person has, the more his or her cells have trouble controlling blood sugar. Not surprisingly, as the numbers of overweight Americans increase, so do cases of type 2 diabetes. Second, inactivity feeds this disease. Inactive people gain more weight, but exercise doesn't just keep off pounds; it also turns blood sugar into energy and helps the cells control blood sugar. Third, a poor diet with lots of fried and fatty foods brings on type 2 diabetes, especially in people with a fourth cause, family history. Anyone with diabetes in the family or from certain racial backgrounds (for example, Hispanics, blacks, and Asians) has a higher risk. People can't change their genes, but they can fight type 2 diabetes by losing weight, exercising, and saying no to fatty foods.

—Itan Harjo, student

1. Underline the topic sentence. Does this paragraph discuss the causes or effects of type 2 diabetes? _____
2. How many causes does this writer discuss? Which ones are controllable, and which are not? _____

3. On a separate sheet of paper, make a plan of this paragraph.

* To read essays of cause and effect, see Chapter 17, Part C.

PRACTICE 2

To practice separating cause from effect, write the cause and the effect contained in each item below.

EXAMPLE Fewer people are attending concerts at the Boxcar Theater because ticket prices have nearly doubled.

Cause: ticket prices nearly doubled

Effect: fewer people attending concerts

1. A thunderstorm was approaching, so we moved our picnic into the van.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

2. Seeing my father suffer because he could not read motivated me to excel in school.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

3. One study showed that laughter extended the lives of cancer patients.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

4. Americans are having fewer children and doing so later in life. Some experts believe this is why they are spending more money every year on their pets.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

5. Many doctors urged that trampolines be banned because of an "epidemic" of injuries to children playing on them.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

6. I bought this glow-in-the-dark fish lamp for one reason only: it was on sale.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____

7. As more people spend time surfing the Internet, television viewing is declining for the first time in fifty years.

Cause: _____

Effect: _____



8. For years, Charboro cigarettes outsold all competitors as a result of added ammonia. This ammonia gave smokers' brains an extra "kick."

Cause: _____

First Effect: _____

Second Effect: _____

PRACTICE 3

List three causes or three effects to support each topic sentence below. First, read the topic sentence to see whether causes or effects are called for. Then think, jot, and list your three best ideas.

1. The huge success of Barbie (or some other toy, game, or product) has a number of causes.

2. There are several reasons why AIDS continues to spread among teenagers, despite widespread knowledge about the deadly nature of the disease.

3. Reading books by authors of many nationalities, instead of just American and English authors, has many positive (or negative) effects on American students.

PRACTICE 4

Now choose one topic from Practice 3 that interests you and write a paragraph of cause or effect on notebook paper. Before you write a draft, think and make a plan. Have you chosen the three most important causes or effects and decided on an effective order in which to present them? As you write, use transitional expressions to help the reader follow your ideas.