

Cause and Effect

One thing makes another thing happen.

CAUSE

Why something happens. It comes first.



EFFECT

What happens. It comes after the cause.

How to find them

- 1 Ask: **What happened?** That is the effect.
- 2 Ask: **Why did it happen?** That is the cause.
- 3 Look for **signal words**. They tell you a cause or an effect is coming.

Signal words

because

so

since

as a result

when

if ... then

Try it

CAUSE

It rained all night.



EFFECT

The grass is wet.

It rained all night, **so** the grass is wet.

CAUSE

Ben forgot his lunch.



EFFECT

Ben was hungry.

Ben was hungry **because** he forgot his lunch.

CAUSE

The sun went down.



EFFECT

The sky got dark.

When the sun went down, the sky got dark.

The cause always happens first, even when the sentence tells the effect first.