



Answering 'Cause' and 'Effect' Questions in the Reading Test

Aim: This section will help you to answer true/false questions better in the reading test by showing you how to avoid traps.

Problems: Many candidates don't try to understand what they're reading - they just try to match parts of the passage with the questions. This means they don't notice the cause and effect language in the passages which can completely change the meaning of the questions.

Firstly, complete the following exercises by putting the cause/effect phrase into the correct column to show what sentence structure it is used in. Some phrases might go into more than one column.

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| [to result] in | [to result] from | as a result of | [to lead] to |
| [to cause] | because of | because | consequently |
| [to be] due to | as a result | [to bring] about | |

<i>cause</i>	<i>e.g. [to result] in</i> _____ _____ _____ _____	<i>effect</i>
<i>effect</i>	<i>e.g. [to result] from</i> _____ _____ _____ _____	<i>cause</i>
<i>e.g. as a result</i> _____	<i>cause</i>	<i>effect</i>

In the reading test, cause & effect type questions usually come in two forms:

i) Sentence completion

Boiling the liquid for more than 30 minutes leads to(1).....

ii) Table completion

(Continued)



Cause	Effect
Boiling the liquid for more than 30 minutes e.g.:(1).....

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

Recently the scientific community has been very excited about new discoveries relating to the properties of the wonder drug Zymotropin. Zymotropin was borne out of previous experiments with happiness enhancing pharmaceutical products such as Dextragiggleathene and Tetrasidesplitopin. Extensive research into the effects of these two compounds on terminally depressed rodents brought to light several interesting patterns of behaviour. Firstly, male rabbits who were given 40 milligrammes of Dextragiggleathene twice a day after breakfast and dinner showed signs of hyper-activity and playfulness, whereas in females it took 65mg before any sign of conviviality was witnessed. As a result of these findings, researchers at Smile & Guffaw Ltd. decided to mix the compound with the drug Tetrasiesplitopin – formerly used in tests on British males who were chronically suicidal for no apparent reason. Unfortunately, raucous singing accompanied immediately afterward by mild seizure was the initial effects of a 50-50 mix of these two compounds. Because of this doctors decided to cut down on the amount of Tetrasidesplitopin and instead use a 75-25 mixture – this was because of the fact that certain properties therein might have been responsible for the over anxiousness caused in many patients. After another round of controlled testing, it was discovered that the new drug resulted in joviality rarely seen in grown men born north of Buckinghamshire. Unfortunately, because of hormone imbalances brought about by menstruation, all women tested continued to take on the persona of Mrs Mills.

Questions 1-3 Complete the following sentences with a short phrase:

1. Hyper-activity in male rabbits resulted from
2. because they were repeatedly trying to kill themselves.
3. As a result of the over-reactions in the first round of testing, Smile & Guffaw

(Continued)



cause	effect
.....(4).....	due to their irregularities in hormone levels
A 50/50 mix of the Tetrasidesplitopin & Dextragiggleathene(5).....
.....(6).....	resulted in Zymotropin

Check your answers in the [Answer Key](#).

http://www.ieltstips.com/ielts_test_strategies/reading_test_strategies/answering_cause_%26_effect_questions_-_answer_key.html

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