

Cause and Effect

Sometimes the correct response to a question is the result of something that happened before. Your job is to find out why that event happened.

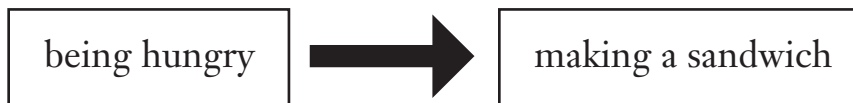
Definitions

Cause and effect is a relationship between two events or conditions. The first event is the *cause*. The second event is the *effect*. The cause makes the effect happen. The effect happens as a result of the cause.

Example: Dwayne was hungry, so he made a sandwich.

(*cause*)

(*effect*)



In this example, Dwayne is hungry. That is his condition. It is the *cause*. Making the sandwich is the *effect*. The word “so” signals that there is a cause-and-effect relationship. One action results from the other.

Words to Look For

Cause-and-Effect Questions

Look for these key words that signal a cause-and-effect relationship.

- Because or because of
- As a result
- Since
- So
- Due to
- Therefore
- When



Test Tips



Cause-and-Effect Relationships

These tips will help you identify the relationship between cause and effect.

- Ask, "What happened and why?" *What happened* is the effect. *Why* is the cause.
- Look for the key words and phrases.
- Some questions ask you to find the cause. Some questions ask you to find the effect. Know which one you are looking for.
- Sometimes the cause is given and the effect follows. Example: *It started to rain, so Mike opened his umbrella.*



Other times, the effect is given and the cause follows. Example: *Mike opened his umbrella when it started to rain.*



Look for the difference.

- Your answer should come only from information in the passage.

Directions

Read this story. Then answer questions 1 through 5 on pages 39 and 40.

Poodle's Problem

Everyone calls my best friend "Poodle," like the dog. Her real name is Francine. She got her nickname when she was four years old. Her parents found her in the backyard running on all fours with Rags, the family dog. So they started calling her Poodle.

Not too many kids really like taking care of their dogs, but Poodle does. She wakes up early on school days to take Rags for a walk. Then she feeds Rags and gets ready for school. On weekends, she gives Rags a bath. You probably know that dogs really hate to be bathed. They whine and shake and make a mess. Poodle just scrubs Rags and then cleans up the soapy, wet mess afterward.

I once asked Poodle why she loves Rags so much. She said, "A dog is the best pet in the world. They are fun and loyal and loving."

Last month I was at Poodle's house after school. We were finishing our homework at the kitchen table. Rags was lying under the table. Suddenly Poodle sneezed. Then she sneezed again and again. I asked Poodle if she had a cold.

"No," she said. "I'm healthy as a horse."

I looked up. Poodle did not look as healthy as a horse. She looked more like a horse. Her face was red. Her nose was running. She could not stop sneezing.

The next morning Poodle's mom took her to the doctor. The doctor ran some tests. Finally the doctor told Poodle and her mom what was wrong. "You have become allergic to dogs, Poodle. I'm sorry, but you will have to give your dog away."

Poodle was miserable. Could this really be happening? Poodle asked the doctor if there was some mistake. But the doctor was sure that the dog must go.

Poodle cried for four straight hours. Then she asked her mom what to do.

"Think about what's best for Rags," her mom said. "Then you'll know."

Poodle knew that Rags must live somewhere, but where? If she gave Rags to a stranger, she would never see him. She would not know how Rags was doing. She would not be sure that he was getting the best care. Poodle thought and thought. Then she knew.

I was brushing my teeth that night when the phone rang. It was Poodle. She wanted me to adopt Rags. It was a great idea. Poodle could teach me everything

and visit Rags whenever she wanted. I begged and begged my parents to let me have Rags. Finally they agreed. I promised that I would walk, feed, and bathe the dog just like Poodle had.

It's been two weeks. Rags is doing very well. I wake up early for dog walks so I am more tired than I used to be. The dog baths are a mess. Rags shakes soap all over the bathroom. Poodle says it will get easier, but my mom is ready to live with a dirty dog!

What about Poodle? Tomorrow, we are going to the pet store with her dad. It turns out that she is also allergic to cats, but not to snakes, iguanas, hamsters, turtles . . .

1 Why do people call Francine “Poodle”?

- A Her family owns many dogs.
- B She has a great sense of smell.
- C She has fuzzy hair like a dog.
- D She played like a dog as a young child.

2 Why does Poodle think that dogs make the best pets?

- A They need very little attention.
- B They love and amuse their owners.
- C They do not cause allergies.
- D They are clean and quiet.

3 Why does Poodle give away Rags?

- A She becomes allergic.
- B Her friend wants a dog.
- C The dog is too much work.
- D Her mother tells her to.



4 Why is the narrator so tired at the end of the story?

- A** She is sick with allergies.
- B** The phone is ringing late at night.
- C** She wakes up early to walk the dog.
- D** She is shopping for new pets with Poodle.

5 Using information from the story, identify the cause of each action or event below.

A Poodle has a red face and runny nose.

B Poodle cries for four hours.

C Poodle decides to give the dog to her friend rather than to a stranger.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 1 through 6 on pages 41 and 42.



It was a clear summer day when Greg Billings found dents on his car. The car was in his driveway. It had no other damage. No baseball or fallen tree branches hinted at an accident. It had rained earlier, but Mr. Billings did not think that a storm smashed the car—at first. He later learned that hail had caused the damage.

Hail is a type of snow that falls occasionally in the spring but mostly in the summer. Hailstones are balls of ice that form during thunderstorms. They can be as small as a pea or as large as a softball. People have reported even bigger hailstones. But hailstones melt fast, so it is hard to collect and measure really big ones.

A hailstone begins as a piece of dust in a wet storm cloud. A pocket of air called an *updraft* may lift the dust. As the dust rises, the air in the cloud gets colder. A water droplet freezes around the dust. A small hailstone forms. When the hailstone gets too heavy, it starts to fall.

Another updraft may lift the hailstone again. It rises and collects another layer of ice. This process repeats over and over. The hailstone forms with layers, like an onion. The number of rings inside a hailstone tells how many times it bounced up inside the cloud. When updrafts cannot hold the hailstone any more, hail falls to the ground.

Hailstones form only under the right conditions. They need wet, drafty thunderstorm clouds where part of the cloud is very cold. Places where the weather is not too hot or too cold have the most hail. Areas along mountain ranges also get a lot of hail. Mountains increase storms and updrafts. In the United States, the area east of the Rocky Mountains is called “Hail Alley” because hailstorms form there a lot.

Hail can damage cars, windows, and roofs. The greatest damage, though, is to crops and farms. Hail can hurt people too. But most hail is pea-sized. That’s good news for cars, crops, and people.

1 What damaged Greg Billings’ car?

- A rain
- B baseballs
- C tree branches
- D hail

- 2** Why is a big hailstone hard to find?
- A** They do not exist.
 - B** They do not fall to the ground.
 - C** They melt fast.
 - D** They are found only in the mountains.

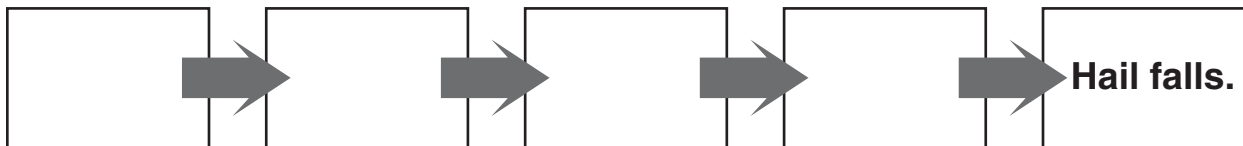


- 3** What makes dust rise in a storm cloud?
- A** mountains
 - B** water
 - C** hail
 - D** updrafts

- 4** Why does hail form mostly in the summer?
- A** There are more wet storm clouds.
 - B** The weather is warm.
 - C** There is more dust.
 - D** The weather is windy.

- 5** Explain why hail is common near mountains. Identify two reasons.

- 6** Insert the correct letter in each box of the chart to show cause and effect.



- A** The hailstone rises and falls inside the cloud over and over.
- B** Dust rises in a storm cloud.
- C** Updrafts cannot hold up the hailstones.
- D** A layer of ice forms on the dust.

Compare and Contrast

To answer compare-and-contrast questions, you must understand how things are the same and different.

Definitions

Compare means to tell how people, places, things, or ideas are alike. **Contrast** means to tell how they are different.

Words to Look For

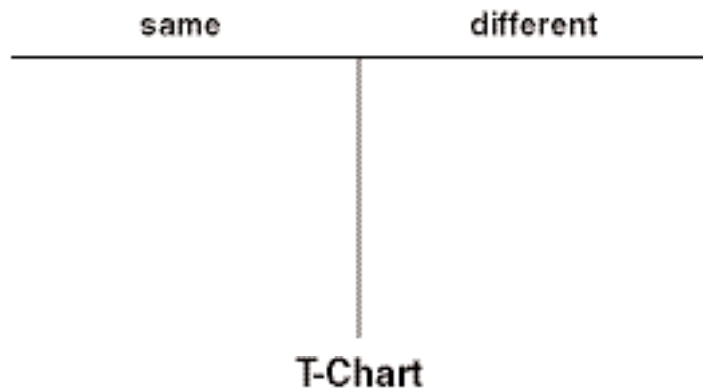
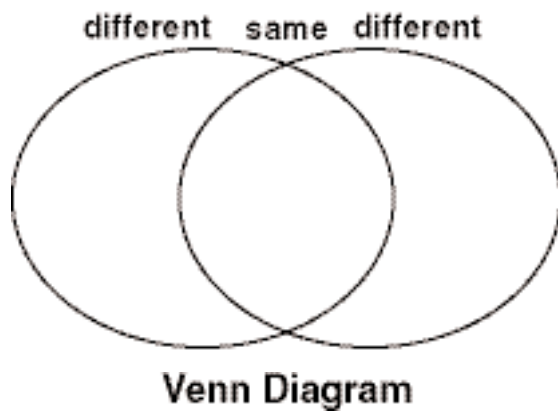
Compare-and-Contrast Questions

Key words and phrases can signal that you should compare or contrast.

- How are _____ and _____ alike?
- How are _____ and _____ different?
- How are _____ and _____ the same?
- What do _____ and _____ have in common?

Graphic organizers

A graphic organizer, such as a Venn diagram or t-chart, can organize your ideas. You sort details into two groups: same and different.



Some compare-and-contrast questions are short-answer questions with graphic organizers. You will have to complete the graphic organizer to show your answer.

Test Tips

Compare and Contrast

Follow these steps to compare and contrast.

- Reread the passage.
- Identify what you are going to compare or contrast.
- List what is the same. List what is different.
- Use a graphic organizer.

Directions

Read the fable below. Then answer questions 1 through 3 on pages 44 and 45.

The Tortoise and the Hare

One sunny day, a tortoise was walking slowly down the road. A hare raced by on the same road. When the hare saw the tortoise, he stopped in his tracks.

“You silly tortoise,” said the hare, “you will never get anywhere going so slowly.”

The tortoise smiled. She was not upset. “Let’s have some fun,” she said. “Let’s have a race and see who wins.”

The hare laughed. “Okay,” he said. “This will be the easiest race I have ever won.”

The tortoise and the hare decided to race to the end of the road. The race began. The hare bolted off and was quickly ahead. Tortoise ran in her regular, easy way.

After a few minutes, the hare turned and saw that tortoise was way behind. The hare *knew* that he would win, so he stopped for a rest. He sat down under a shady tree. It was warm and soon he fell asleep. The tortoise kept moving along. In a little while, she passed the hare and crossed the finish line. The tortoise won the race! The hare woke up and was shocked. He had lost the race while he was napping.

Slow and steady wins the race.

1 According to this story, both the tortoise and the hare

- A** run fast
- B** like to race
- C** act the same way
- D** are best friends

2 Which statement best tells how the tortoise is like the hare?

- A** The tortoise takes too many naps.
- B** The tortoise is fast.
- C** The tortoise likes to race.
- D** The tortoise brags a lot.

3 Complete the t-chart below. List three words or phrases that describe the tortoise and three words or phrases that describe the hare.

WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE TORTOISE	WORDS THAT DESCRIBE THE HARE
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	2. _____ _____
3. _____ _____	3. _____ _____



Directions

Read the article below. Then answer questions 1 through 6 on pages 47 and 48.

The Boy Who Climbs

Jordan Romero seems like a normal 6th grader. He lives in California. His mom teaches. His dad is a medic. Jordan was named for Michael Jordan, the basketball player. He knows a lot about dinosaurs and likes to watch *Animal Planet*.

Jordan, though, has an unusual hobby. He wants to climb all of the Seven Summits. These are some of the world's tallest mountains. Each summit is the tallest on each continent. There are seven continents, so there are seven mountains.

By age 11, Jordan had climbed four of the Seven Summits. He plans to climb the rest before he turns 16. The chart below shows Jordan's progress.

Mountain	Continent	Height (feet)	Date Reached
Everest	Asia	29,028	
Aconcagua	South America	22,841	December 2007
Denali	North America	20,320	
Kilimanjaro	Africa	19,340	July 2006
Elbrus	Europe	18,510	July 2007
Vinson	Antarctica	16,050	
Kosciuszko	Australia	7,310	April 2007

In 2006 Jordan climbed his first summit. The mountain was Kilimanjaro in Africa. It took three days. Jordan was 10 years old. He was the youngest ever to reach the top. His climb set a world record.

In 2007 Jordan climbed three more summits. He climbed those in Australia, Europe, and South America. He set records for being the youngest climber on Elbrus and Aconcagua. Australia's summit is the only one where Jordan did not set a record.

Next Jordan plans to climb Vinson. The weather there will be cold and windy. Denali will come after that. Denali is in Alaska. It can be really cold there too. It can fall to -100°F . Everest, the tallest mountain in the world, will be

Jordan's last climb. Everest is more than five miles high. The air is cold and thin. That makes breathing difficult. No adult climbed it until 1953.

Jordan has other goals too. He loves animals, especially reptiles. He keeps snakes and geckos as pets. He was a big fan of the Crocodile Hunter, Steve Irwin. Like Steve, Jordan wants to protect animals of all kinds. He plans to build a safe place for them to live. Jordan also loves cars. He dreams of driving and owning lots of them—when he gets older, of course.

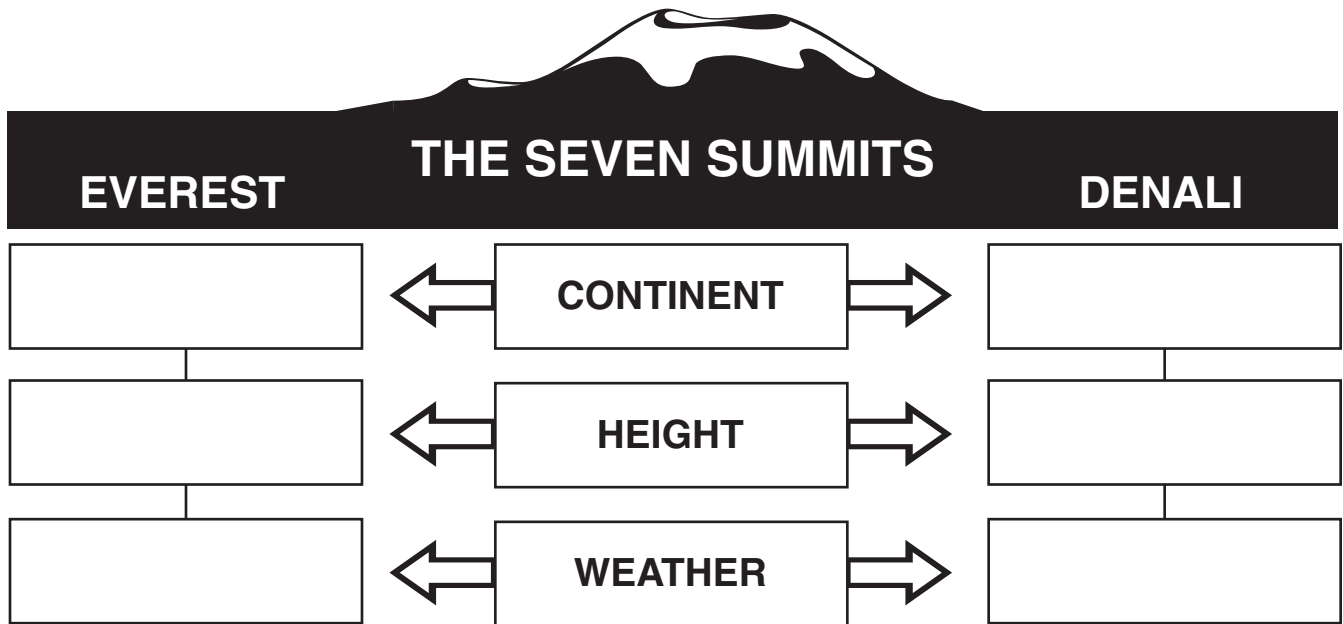
You can learn more about Jordan online. You can also start hiking. Put on a pair of boots and begin walking. You might end up on the top of a mountain!

- 1** What is the main reason Jordan Romero is **different** from other 6th graders?
- A He likes to watch *Animal Planet*.
 - B He lives in California.
 - C He knows a lot about dinosaurs.
 - D He climbs tall mountains.
- 2** Of the Seven Summits Jordan has climbed, all are less than 20,000 feet high **except**
- A Aconcagua
 - B Elbrus
 - C Kilimanjaro
 - D Kosciuszko
- 3** How was Jordan's climb of Kosciuszko different from his other climbs?
- A Jordan did not set a world record.
 - B Kosciuszko is not one of the Seven Summits.
 - C Jordan did not reach the top.
 - D No one had climbed it before.

4 How are Jordan and Steve Irwin alike?

- A They work to protect mountains.
- B They both love animals.
- C They climbed the Seven Summits.
- D They collect cars.

5 Complete the graphic organizer below for two of the summits. Show the continent, height, and weather at the top.



6 **Compare and contrast** Jordan's adventures in 2006 with those in 2007. Tell two ways the years were alike and two ways they were different.

Predicting Outcomes

Some questions will ask you to predict an answer from information you read. You make a prediction from information that is given in the passage.

Definition

A **prediction** is a best guess about what will happen in the future. It can be an action, or something that a person will do or say. An **outcome** is a result.

Words to Look For

Predicting-Outcome Questions

Key words and phrases can tell you to predict an outcome.

- The next thing that will happen is . . .
- The next thing he/she will say is . . .
- What will happen when . . . ?
- The character will **most likely** . . .
- In the year 2020 . . .
- You can expect . . .

Test Tips

These steps will help you make good predictions:

- Look for patterns. Things that happen in the past usually happen again.
- Ask, “What did the characters do in the past?” and “How might they act in the future?”
- Use common sense and your experience with clues from the story.
- Make a best guess about what will happen next.

Directions

Read this article. Then answer questions 1 through 3 on pages 50 and 51.

How to Make Lasagna

If you like spaghetti, try lasagna. Spaghetti is an easier dish to prepare. Lasagna takes more time and requires more preparation. It is worth the extra work it takes to make it.

Lasagna tastes great and is fun to make. This recipe tells you how.

To begin, ask an adult to preheat the oven to 350°F. Then get your ingredients. You will need one pound of ground beef, one pound of ricotta or cottage cheese, two jars of tomato sauce, shredded mozzarella cheese, and “no-boil” lasagna noodles. Unlike regular noodles, “no-boil” noodles do not have to be cooked first to make them soft.

Ask the adult to help you brown the ground beef. Break it up with a spoon as it cooks. You want to have small bits of cooked meat.

Then build your lasagna. Get a four-inch-deep lasagna pan. Cover the bottom with sauce. Add a layer of noodles. Next spread a layer of ricotta or cottage cheese. Sprinkle on meat to cover the cheese. Add layers until the ingredients are gone. Top the whole thing with shredded mozzarella cheese.

Finally, ask an adult to bake it in the oven. After 30 minutes, the lasagna will be bubbly and delicious. Enjoy!

1 Making lasagna instead of spaghetti will **most likely**

- A take more time
- B take less time
- C take the same time
- D take less work



2 You can **predict** that if you use cottage cheese instead of ricotta cheese, the lasagna will

- A** taste about the same
- B** cook faster
- C** be thicker
- D** cost more to make

3 If you use regular lasagna noodles without boiling them first, the lasagna will **most likely**

- A** need to cook longer
- B** taste the same as with “no-boil” noodles
- C** spill over the pan
- D** have hard, crunchy noodles



Directions

Read the paragraphs and answer the questions throughout the text.

The Woman from the Hole

People have always wanted to know how the earth began. Where did the water and oceans come from? Why does the sun rise each day? For thousands of years, people around the world have told “creation stories” to explain these events. People in different parts of the world tell different stories. The stories sometimes have animals or magical events. For a long time, the storytellers told the stories aloud. Only later were the stories written down.

1 It is **most likely** that people told creation stories because they

- A** understood everything about science
- B** thought magic was more interesting than nature
- C** wanted to explain things they did not understand
- D** could not write

2 Explain your thinking in the space below.

A native tribe called the Wyandot (Huron) lived on land that is now part of Canada. Their story about how the earth started is called “The Woman from the Hole.” It tells that in the beginning the earth was only water and sky. There was no land. There were water animals, such as fish, turtles, and water birds, but no people.

One day, a hole opened in the sky. A woman fell through. Two water birds saw her falling. They flew under her and helped her land on the water. They let her float on them like a raft. The birds cried for help and the other animals came. All of the animals could see that the woman was special.

3 Based on what you have read, what do you **predict** the animals will do with the woman?

- A** send her back through the hole in the sky
- B** teach her to fly
- C** leave her alone
- D** help her to survive



4 Explain your thinking in the space below.

The animals knew that the woman needed land to live. Turtle said to the others, “Dive into the water and bring up some land.” One by one, the animals dove deep into the water. When they came up, Turtle looked in their mouths. There was no land inside.

Finally Toad went underwater. He stayed there a long time and almost died. When he came up, a tiny bit of dirt was in his mouth. The woman put it on the back of Turtle’s shell. The dirt grew. It formed all the land on the earth. Today Turtle still holds up all of the land on his back.

5 Based on what you have read, what do you think happened to the woman after the land formed?

- A** She returned to the hole in the sky.
- B** She lived the rest of her life on the land.
- C** She became a water animal.
- D** She learned to swim and moved to the water.

6 Explain your thinking in the space below.
