UNIT 8

CAUSE AND EFFECT

Identifying Cause and Effect in a Passage

Cause and effect is a way to describe the relationship between events. An effect is what happens as a result of a cause.

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.*

Example:

On April 20, 2010, an oil rig exploded and sank in the Gulf of Mexico. This event caused a huge oil spill in the gulf, and oil was spewing into the water from the ocean floor for 87 days. Nearly 5 million barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf of Mexico.

This was the largest oil spill in history. There were many negative effects of the oil spill. (2) First, the states along the Gulf of Mexico had to worry about the polluted water, as oil washed up onto their beaches. These states lost money because no one wanted to visit their beaches. Second, the fishing industry was affected. Many fishermen could not fish in the waters of the gulf due to the oil spill, and this meant that they were out of a job for many months. But the worst effects were to the marine life and other wildlife near the Gulf of Mexico. Because of the pollution in the water, many animals died. Even after efforts were made to clean up the waters of the gulf, animals exposed to the oil spill continued to have health issues.

The United States government investigated the causes of the explosion on the oil rig that caused this huge oil spill. They found that the company that owned the oil rig had not done enough to keep the rig in good condition. (4) The company has had to pay over 42 billion dollars to help with clean up, and as payments to the families of people who were affected by the explosion and spill.