12A Listening Lectures (9)

Cause and effect relationships are often considered in academic lectures, so it is important to be able to identify whether a particular item is a cause or an effect. The lecturer may focus mainly on the causes of something, or the effects, or a combination of both. Lecturers may use a variety of language to describe causes and effects, and understanding this language is essential to understanding the relationships being discussed. It is also important that you identify a lecturer's evaluation of the causes and effects they discuss.

This module covers:

- Recognizing and noting down cause and effect relations in a lecture
- Understanding key cause and effect language
- Categorizing causes, effects, and evaluation

TASK 1 Previewing the topic of a lecture

- 1 Work in pairs. Note down some possible effects on human health of living in a city or large urban area. Evaluate each effect, and decide if it is positive or negative.
- 2 Compare your ideas with another pair. Decide which two effects are the most significant.

TASK 2 Gaining an overview of a lecture

1 12.1 You are going to watch part of a lecture on some specific effects of human progress. Watch Extract 1 from the introduction to the lecture and complete the notes.

Progress - associated with:

Focus of lecture:

The two main effects / impacts:

'Urban heat island' - cause / effects: ...

The effects of urbanization on human health

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ACADEMIC LANGUAGE

▶ Language reference page 177

Recognizing key cause and effect language

Cause and effect relationships can be expressed in a number of different ways. It can be useful to group together words with similar meanings and grammatical forms, for example, nouns (effect, consequence, result) and verbs (result in, lead to).

Cause → Effect

Rapid growth such as we see around us today ... can have serious **consequences**. (noun) ... There are two main issues which **influence** people's health in cities. (verb)

Effect → Cause

Heat stress is a major factor mainly **due to** the 'urban heat island' effect. (preposition)
Urban areas are hotter **because** firstly they're built up, rather than natural. (subordinator)

Cause → Effect / Cause ← Effect

... Heat is also created by people and by traffic. **For these reasons** urban areas are hotter, causing what is known as the urban heat island effect. (adverbial)

In all cases, it is important to show which is the cause and which is the effect.



TASK 3 Using cause and effect language

1 12.1 Watch Extract 1 again or look at the transcript on page 221. Identify the words / phrases from the list that you hear.

consequences impacts effects influence lead to due to outcome since therefore because for these reasons result(ed) in affect origin

For each sentence 1-5, decide:		
a which part of the sentence refers to a cause and w	which refers to an effect	A NOTE OF
b which words / phrases from 1 can be used to con	aplete the sentence.	
I High temperatures in cities can have serious	for human health.	
2 Cities tend to be hotter than the surrounding cou in urban areas is a serious problem for human he	ıntryside, heat	
3 Traffic emissions can alsoh	ealth problems.	Kars Blay
4 Urban areas are hotterthey consist of buildings and roads.	contain few green spaces and mostly	
5 Thison human body tempe unusually high air temperatures.	rature is	
Select three of the words / phrases in 1 and write so relationships connected to your area of study. ASK 4 Understanding causes and ef		
№ 12.2 Watch Extract 2 and complete the notes.		
Bio-climate → important factor for human health	Global warming →	1
\	&≯Hι	umans produce energ
Meteorological variables →	Cool air → humans use more energy	
f ·		to keep warm →
▼ ,		
air temperature	Warm air → Humans	
•	Warm air → Humans Sweating, breathing deeply →	
	Warm air → Humans	
• shortwave	Warm air → Humans Sweating, breathing deeply →	
 shortwave longwave terrestrial emission from the earth 	Warm air → Humans Sweating, breathing deeply → Increased air humidity →	
• shortwave	Warm air → Humans Sweating, breathing deeply → Increased air humidity →	ody temperature

- Task 3 to express the cause and effect relationships clearly and accurately.

Example: Thermal stress (too much heat) → ... possible negative effects for human health Thermal stress can result in negative effects for human health.

4 Connect your sentences in 3 to complete a paragraph about the effects of the bioclimate on human health. The first sentence of the paragraph is provided.

Bio-climate involves meteorological variables such as air temperature, and affects human health in various ways. ...

TASK 5 Critical thinking - evaluating the content of a lecture

- 1 Work in groups and discuss questions 1-3. Give reasons for your views, and use examples from the lecture where possible.
 - 1 Can we have too much progress?
 - 2 Should we be promoting policies to limit progress and growth?
 - 3 Do we need to reduce the size of our cities rather than allowing and encouraging more people to move into them?
- 2 Look back at the effects you suggested in Task 1. How relevant are they to questions 1-3 above?

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Working out whether something is presented as a cause or an effect is a key listening skill. Identifying any evaluation is also important.

Watch an online lecture related to your area of study, and note down any causes, effects, and evaluation.