

Explaining a complex situation

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3114X

LANGUAGE
English

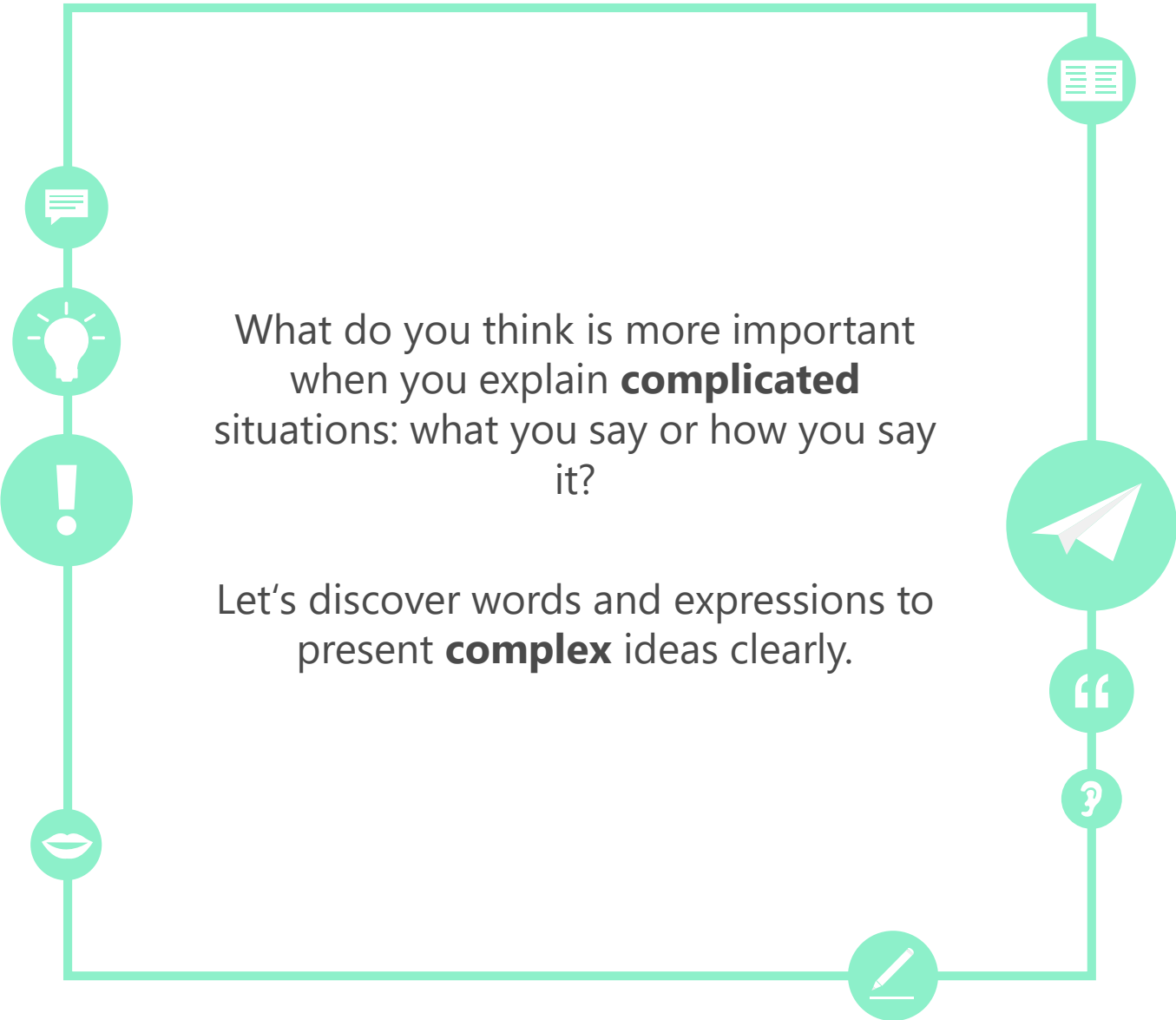




Goals

- Can recall and explain how to express cause, consequence, and opposition.
- Can express cause, consequence, and opposition as part of a range of straightforward sentences.





What do you think is more important
when you explain **complicated**
situations: what you say or how you say
it?

Let's discover words and expressions to
present **complex** ideas clearly.



Preview

- In this lesson, you will review how to express **cause**, **consequence** and **opposition**.



Too much stress was the **cause** of his resignation. What do you think the **consequence** will be?



What do you think?

Albert Einstein once said the quote below.

What do you think he means by that?

Read it carefully and tell your teacher what it means to you.

“

If you can't explain it to a six-year-old, you don't understand it yourself.

”





Expressing cause

- When talking about an **effect resulting** from a certain **cause**, special expressions are used.
- **Cause** expressions can be divided into two **categories**: the ones that are followed by a **sentence** (subordinate clause), see below:

followed by a sentence

because

the reason why

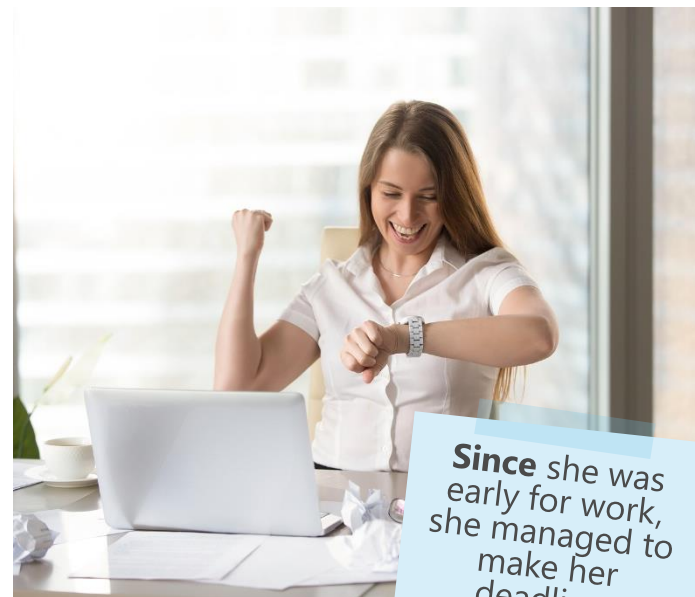
since

as

seeing that

given that

for the simple reason that

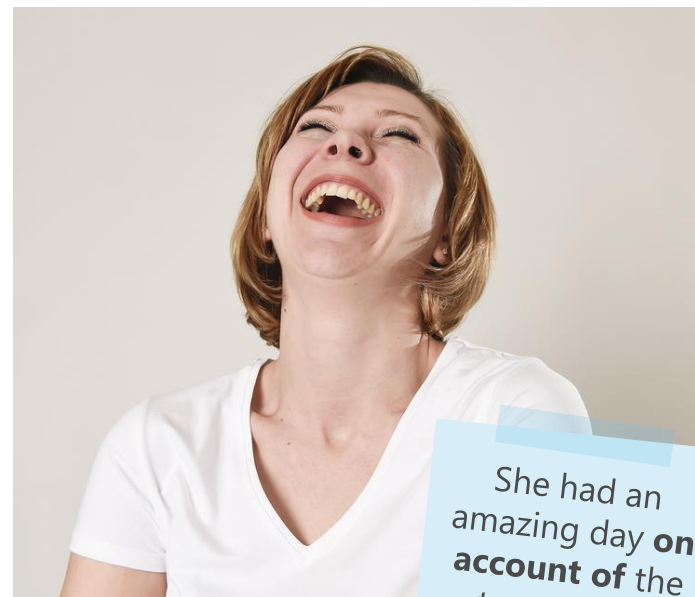




Expressing cause

- **Cause** expressions can be divided into two **categories**: the ones that are followed by a **sentence** (subordinate clause), as shown on the previous page, and a **noun** or noun phrase, as shown below:

followed by a noun	
to cause	following
is the cause of	in the light of / in view of
due/thanks/owing to	caused by
because of / as a result of	for fear of
on account of	by virtue of (very formal use only)



She had an amazing day **on account of** the test results!



Find the cause

Read the sentences below and underline the cause of each sentence.

1. Seeing that you aren't interested in this position, I won't offer it to you.
2. Owing to the storm, many flights were delayed.
3. On account of the weather, the business trip had to be cancelled.
4. You would have to pay extra for the service as you are not a citizen here.
5. He had difficulties finding a job because of his lack of enthusiasm.



What are the causes of each topic? Try to explain your answer using the expressions from pages 6 and 7.

globalisation

higher housing costs

online marketing

becoming bankrupt



Expressing consequences

- When expressing **consequences**, specific **results** are linked to specific **causes**.

expressions for consequences	
so that	in order that
as a result	therefore
that's why	thus
for this reason	such (before noun)
consequently	if... then





What will happen next?

Three friends are having a conversation to try and plan what to do over the weekend. What do you think will be the consequences?



The weather is going to be great. We should go to a park and have a picnic in the sun.

I have so much work to finish. Let's go to the library and work on our assignments.



I found some really cheap train tickets to Cornwall. My friend is having a party there and we should go!



Finish the sentences with consequences

1. I organised a meeting **so that...**



2. The new employee solved the problem. **As a result,**



3. Sandy had a house-warming party last night. **For this reason,**



4. It was such a good film **that...**



5. I will get paid this Friday.
Therefore,





Describe the pictures

What do you think is happening in each picture?
What do you think was the cause of the situation?
What will the consequences be?





Cause and effect

**What could be possible causes and effects of situations below?
Think back on your experiences and share your ideas with your teacher.**



being late for
work

A promotion at
work

empty wallet

cancelling a
meeting



Expressing opposition

- To show **opposition** or **conflicting** ideas, special words and phrases are used to connect sentences.

but	alternatively
however	otherwise
nonetheless	instead
on the other hand	though
even so	notwithstanding
conversely	unlike (+ noun)
as opposed to (+ noun)	instead of (+ noun)





Fill in the blanks

Fill in the blanks using the correct opposition expressions. Remember that some expressions are followed by a clause and some by a noun. There may be more than one correct answer for each question.

1. High level positions can be stressful at times,
_____ people in these roles get paid a lot.
2. Hollywood directors spend millions of pounds on their films, _____ they make more than they spend if their films gain popularity.
3. Charlie wanted to be left alone _____ spending time with his family.
4. The restaurant didn't have what Steve craved. The owner offered him a special dish _____ with an extra charge.
5. _____ most people at the conference, I did not feel welcome.

a. but

b. nevertheless

c. though

d. instead of

e. unlike



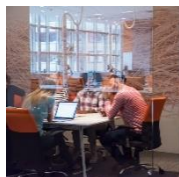
Expressing opposition

What would you say to disagree with the issues below?
Use words and phrases to express opposition, and share your thoughts with your teacher.



1

Automation is good for the economy.



2

Working for a small company is bad for your career.



3

You need a university degree to get a good job.



Controversial issue



Choose a controversial issue of your interest. Take a side and state your opinion. Then your teacher will disagree with you.
Try to persuade your teacher.



Expressing exception

- In English, exception can be expressed by using **except**, **unless** or **but** or **as long as**.

- I am familiar with everybody in the marketing team **except** Sanjay.
- I was told to file away all the documents **but** the one with a post-it note on it.
- You can't take a day off **unless** you have a doctor's note.



What's your opinion?

**What are things to
consider when
explaining complicated
information?**

be concise

be prepared

be assertive

focus

make eye
contact



Practise explaining complicated information

Explain the words below to your teacher, they have to guess what you are describing. Limit yourself a minute for each word. Try to also include some of the expressions we have studied in this lesson.





The challenges of running a business

Think about the biggest challenges businesses face today. What are the causes of these problems? How can they be solved?

cause

effect



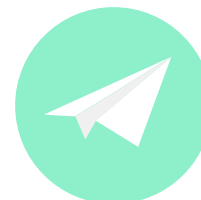


Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

**Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?**



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



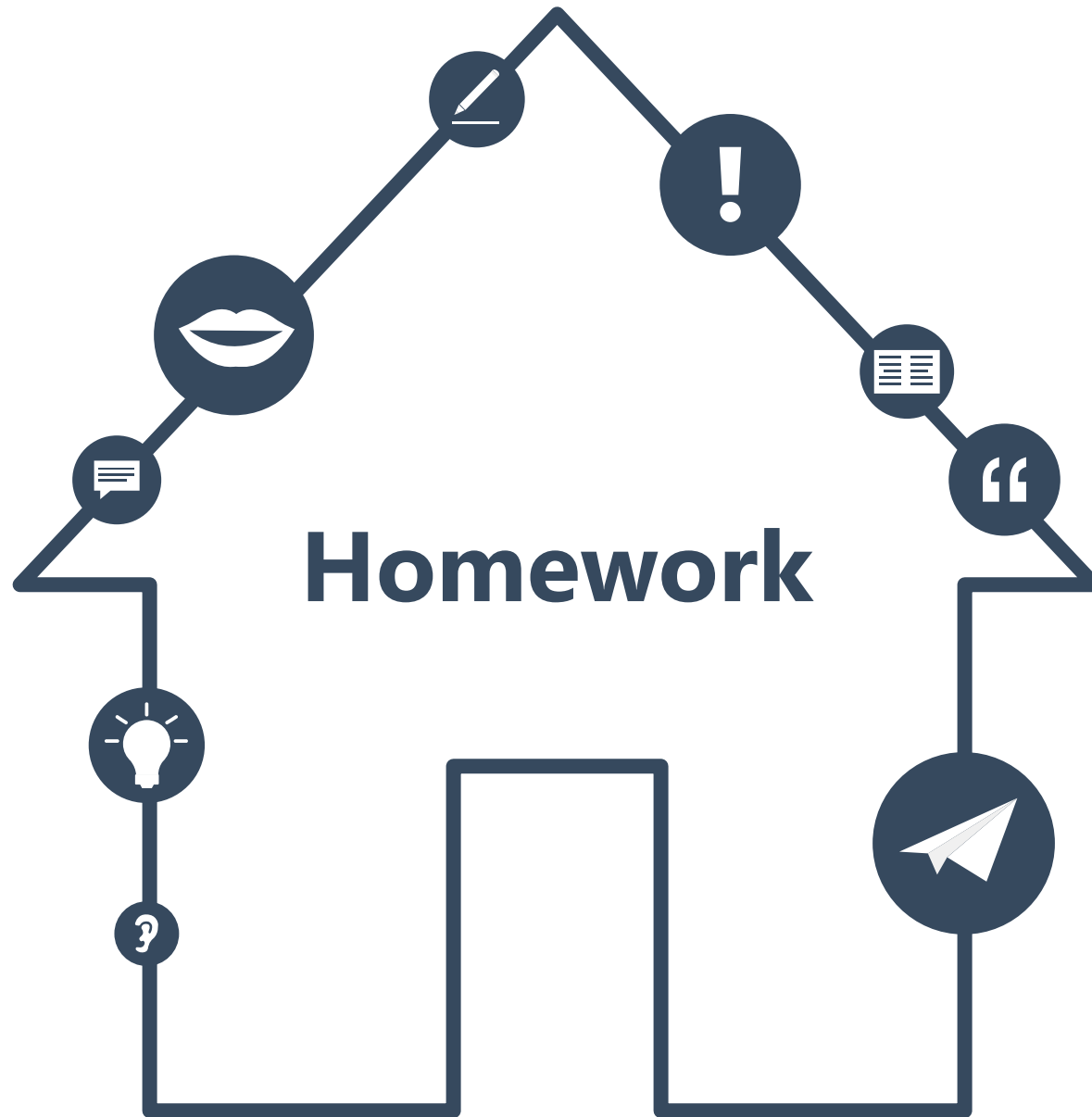
Answer key

Activity p. 16

1. a/b/c; 2. a/b; 3. d; 4. a; 5.e

Activity p. 8

1. Seeing that you aren't interested in this position, 2. owing to the storm, 3. on account of the weather, 4. as you are not a citizen here, 5. because of his lack of enthusiasm.





Homework: matching activity

1. Lisa decided to cut down on sweets.

2. Many people's stress level has risen

3. You'd better get dressed now

4. I'll start the grill for the BBQ

a. Unless somebody else wants to..

b. Due to too much work and lack of time to relax.

c. As a result, she lost so much weight.

d. Otherwise you won't get to the show in time.



Homework: e-mail writing

Your new mayor is trying to decide whether or not he should invest in building a high-tech public library in the city centre. A lot of the residents say that it is a waste of money, but you think it is a great idea. Write an e-mail to the mayor and state your opinions on why you need it, what changes it will bring, etc.

	—	□	×
To: themajor			
Subject: The new library			
Dear Mayor,			
As a result of the recent controversy surrounding the new library...			



Homework answer key

Activity p. 27
1. c, 2. b, 3. d, 4. a



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