



lingoda

Cause and effect essay

WRITING

LEVEL
ADVANCED

NUMBER
C1_3071W_EN

LANGUAGE
English

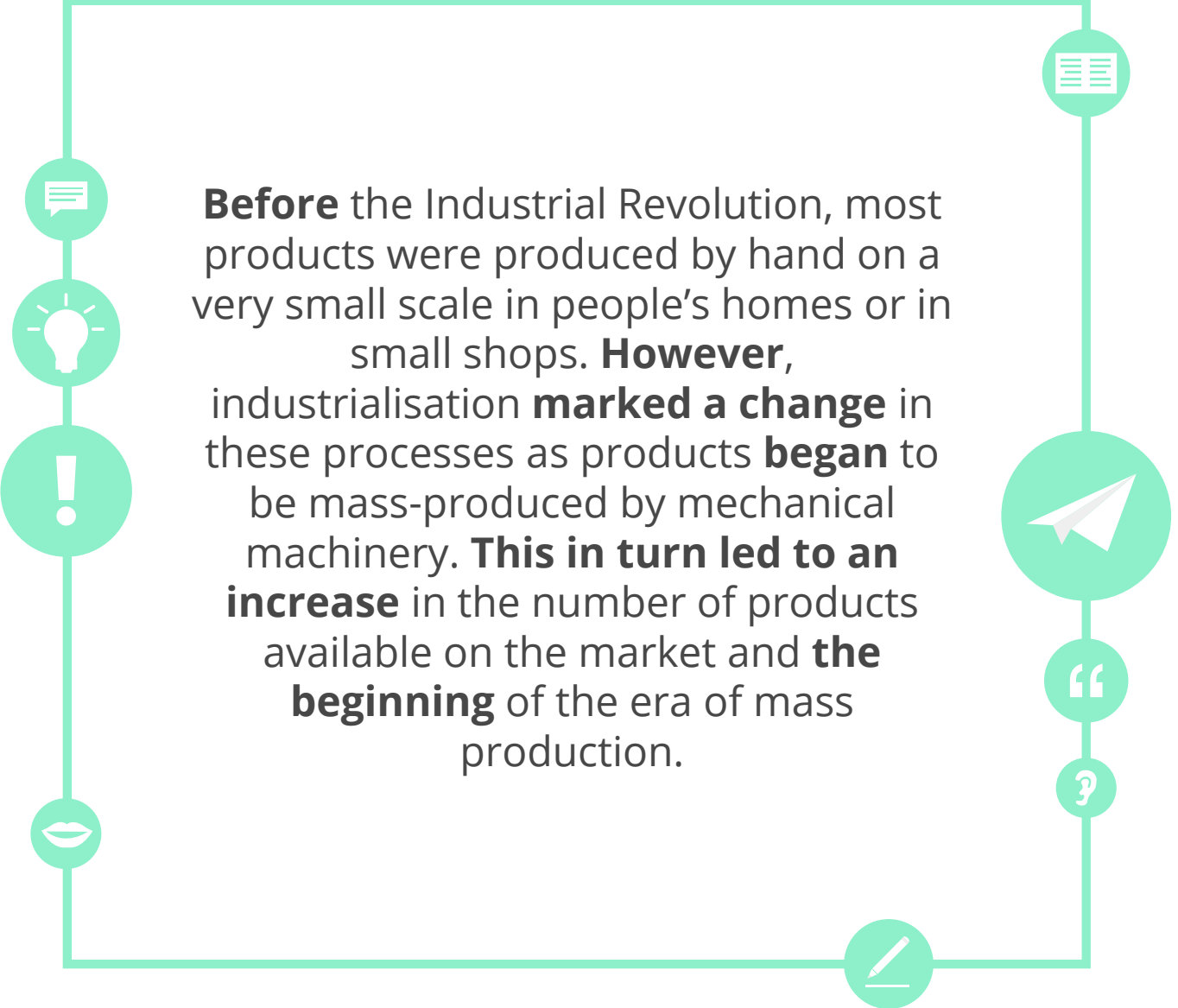




Goals

- Can identify and explain the structure of a cause and effect essay.
- Can write my own cause and effect essay, using an array of advanced structures and phrasal verbs.





Before the Industrial Revolution, most products were produced by hand on a very small scale in people's homes or in small shops. **However**, industrialisation **marked a change** in these processes as products **began** to be mass-produced by mechanical machinery. **This in turn led to an increase** in the number of products available on the market and **the beginning** of the era of mass production.



Cause and effect essays

- **Cause and effect** essays focus on the **relationship** between **why** things happen and the **results** of something happening, or in other words, the effect.
- Cause and effect essays are good ways to **organise** and **structure** ideas relating to a variety of different topics.



An increase in the amount of plastic packaging used by food manufacturers **has in turn led to** environmental problems as countries around the world struggle with how to dispose of these non biodegradable products.



Thinking of topics

What kinds of topics do you think might make suitable subjects for cause and effect essays?





Causes and effects

- To write a cause and effect essay, you first have to know the **difference** between a cause and an effect.
- A **cause** is the reason **why something happens** and an **effect** is the thing that **happens as a result** of a cause.

Cause		Effect
More people move to the city	→	Apartment rents increase
Fewer people want to become teachers	→	There is a shortage of teachers in schools
More people are using cars in cities	→	There is an increase in air pollution
Eating eggs is proven to cause cancer	→	Egg sales decrease
Airplane ticket prices decrease	→	More people travel abroad for holidays



Effect and affect



- Be careful! Lots of people confuse the words **effect** and **affect** but they have very different meanings and uses.
- **Effect** is a noun whilst **to affect** is a verb.



Rising apartment prices will have an **effect** on everyone living in the city and on those hoping to move there. However, the increase in rent will **affect** poorer families most.



Structuring a cause and effect essay

Planning is crucial when it comes to writing a good and convincing cause and effect essay. In this lesson we will look in depth at **how to structure** a good cause and effect essay.

- A great way to start planning a cause and effect essay is by making a list of all the possible causes and effects that are related to your topic.
- This will help you to organise and structure your writing and will also **help you prioritise the most important** points.





Analyse the photos

Look at the photos below, what is happening in each image?
What different causes and effects can be identified in each?



cause

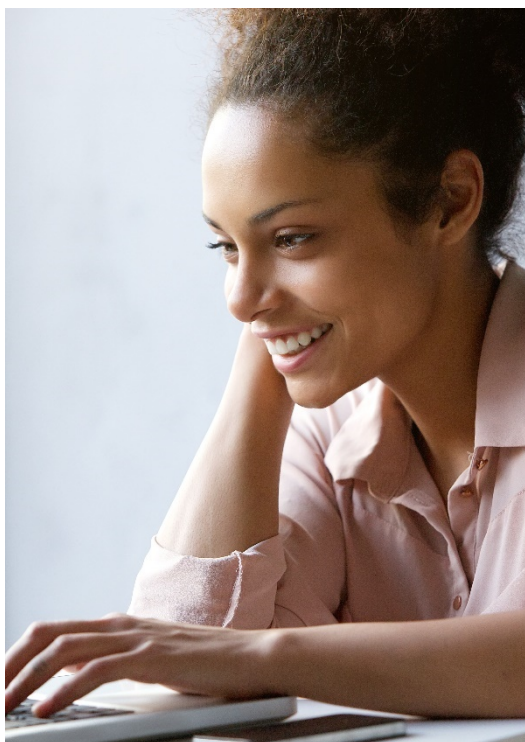


effect



Affect or effect

Getting the hang of the difference between 'effect' and 'affect' can be tricky, but it's very important! Practise using 'to affect' and 'effect' correctly with the information in each box below. How do these situations affect people/the environment etc? What are the effects?



the low cost of
air travel

longer working
hours

more pressure
on teenagers at
school

the increase in
online shopping

email as
opposed to
post

the increase in
the use of
plastic in
packaging



Writing your essay: structure

- On the following page, you will see how to structure an essay and what is most important.
- It will talk you through how to plan every part of it in order to achieve the best essay as a result.



A good structure is essential when writing a convincing cause and effect essay.



Essay structure

brainstorm

You might find it useful to first **brainstorm** all the different causes and effects related to the topic you want to write about. Afterwards you can organise your different ideas and put more stress on the most important ones.

thesis statement

The key element of a great essay is a strong **thesis statement**. Your thesis statement is your main idea, or argument. This needs to be clear and easy to understand, and your essay should convince the reader of the truth of this statement.

back up your argument

Throughout your essay you need to **back up your thesis statement**. Think of every paragraph as an opportunity to prove to your reader that you are correct! This doesn't mean ignoring any objections to your argument though, instead it's better to acknowledge any potential problems with your argument and tackle them head on. This will make your case stronger.

conclusion

Your **conclusion** is where you summarise your argument, but it is also a last chance to convince your reader, so it should be succinct and persuasive. Summarise your key points and remind the reader why you are right!



The importance of being organised



- Sometimes it can be tempting to dive straight into writing, especially when you are writing about a topic you are passionate about. But remember, taking time to plan out the structure of your essay is crucial, and in the long run it will save you time and stress!



Remember, effective planning means a **convincing** essay!



Writing a good thesis statement

- A **thesis statement** focuses your ideas into one or two clear and concise sentences. Think of it as a summary of your argument.
- Your **thesis statement** must be included in the introduction of your essay, as well as the conclusion.
- Throughout the body of the essay, each paragraph should also work towards **proving your thesis statement**.

- Clear
- Concise
- Summary of overall argument

The advance of the internet has led to an increase in online shopping, which has had a detrimental effect on high streets across the country. The death of the high street is a complex problem, but the growth and popularity of online shopping can be attributed as the main cause of the high street's problems.



Useful vocabulary review

Look at the vocabulary listed on the cards below. These structures and phrases are really useful when talking and writing about causes and effects. Check your understanding of each term with your teacher and make sentences with each!



to lead to

(to) increase

gradual decline

(to) decrease

to influence
something

a detrimental
effect

a strong impact

to mark a
change

a marked
difference



Thinking about structure

Look at the topics on the cards below. Imagine you were planning a cause and effect essay on each topic. Can you think of a strong thesis statement for each topic? Brainstorm causes and effects related to each topic with your teacher.

1. The rising cost of living in big cities like London and New York City.
2. The pollution of our seas and oceans
3. The increase in use of social media and smartphones
4. The influence of video games on children





Time to review

- In the next few slides we are going to **review** some of the topics you covered in the module C1.3.
- At the end of this review, you will choose one of these topics to be the **subject** of your own **cause and effect essay**, so pay close attention!



You have completed a whole unit, great job!

Writing a paragraph using deductive reasoning

In this lesson, you learnt about how to use **deductive reasoning**.

Deductive reasoning is a great way to structure your argument. In **deductive reasoning** a writer moves from a **general principle** that is known to be true and follows through using **logical steps** to **conclude with a specific example** which, if all of the preceding steps were true, must also be true.

Can you give some examples of deductive reasoning?



All rabbits are mammals. All mammals have hearts. All rabbits must have hearts.

Phrasal verbs of cause and effect

In this unit we also learnt a lot of new **phrasal verbs**. Some of these will be useful when you are writing your cause and effect essay!

Which new phrasal verbs can you remember? Can you think of new example sentences using the phrasal verbs in the sentence below?



An increase in sugar in the body can **lead to** diabetes. At a more advanced stage diabetes can **result in** eye problems, and neurological issues. However, while many cases of diabetes **stem from** poor diet genetics can also play a role.



Review: phrasal verbs of cause & effect

to turn into

to change sth around

to point to

to put (sth) down to

to contribute to

to attribute to

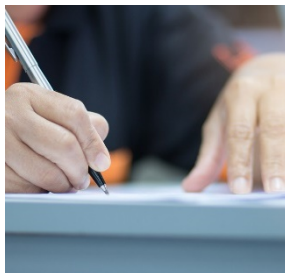
to account for

to depend upon

to allow for

Relative pronouns in focus

We use relative pronouns to refer to a noun mentioned earlier in a sentence which requires more information added to it. Relative pronouns are used to join sentences together and create relative clauses. You learned some useful **pronoun phrases**. Can you remember them?



There are two major points I wish to discuss, **neither of which** have been addressed in this context before.



There are manifold reasons why childhood obesity is on the rise, **many of which** relate to a lack of appropriate education in physical health.



Review: relative pronoun phrases

beyond which

from which

all of which/whom

most of which/whom

none of which/whom

a number of
which/whom

the rate at which

the biggest of which

the effects of which



Topic reviews: what kind of things might you write about in a cause and effect essay for each?

zoos

trophy hunting

world heritage sites

recycling and waste
management

head transplants

conservation

cloning

melting polar ice
caps

sustainability



Plan your essay

Choose one of the topics from the previous slide. Identify important causes and effects relating to it. Remember to rank them from most to least important! This will help you put your thesis statement together.

cause	→	effect
_____	→	_____
_____	→	_____
_____	→	_____
_____	→	_____



Thesis statement

Together with your teacher, come up with a thesis statement which reflects the planning and ordering you did in the previous activity.





Sample introduction including thesis statement

Berlin has gone through a lot of changes over the past few decades. After the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989, it became a paradise of sorts for a generation of artists and punks who were lured to the city by cheap rents and a hedonistic and liberated atmosphere. However, nowadays Berlin has to some extent become a victim of its own success. The city's reputation as an exciting and cheap place to live has caused thousands of young people and small businesses from across the world to flock there and this in turn has led to huge problems in terms of the availability of housing in the city.

Look at the sample introduction above. Can you identify the thesis statement?



Sample body

There have been stories of some older residents, many of whom have lived in the city since before the fall of the wall, being forced to leave the city centre as a result of the vast increase in rental prices. In some districts of the city, an increase in demand for housing has stemmed from these once so-called poor areas being suddenly reborn as cool and hip. Many of the newcomers arriving in the city are wealthy, or come from cities where rental prices are comparatively more expensive. As a result, unscrupulous landlords who increase the price of rent can easily find new tenants who are willing to pay excessive rental fees and charges.

Furthermore, an increase in the number of tourists coming to the city has led to a growth in the holiday accommodation market. Since property prices were relatively low for a long time in the early 90s, many investors were quick to snap up properties, and now, rather than renting out to long term residents, they prefer to make a larger profit by leasing these same buildings out exclusively as holiday lets.

Now take a look at the body of the text. Can you identify any phrasal verbs? Or advanced use of relative pronouns?



Sample conclusion

It's a difficult situation to manage, as while these housing availability problems are clearly a direct result of city's rising popularity as a destination for both living and tourism, the boost to the economy that new residents bring is also very welcome. In recent years, the government has tried to address the problem by introducing a rent cap for apartments being leased in the city; this has had some positive effects but it is difficult to police, however. Meanwhile, every week dozens of fresh faced new arrivals hit the streets in search of their own home from home. The solution to the housing crisis that Berlin is facing may not be clear, but one thing is for sure: the problem won't be going away any time soon.

Is the conclusion effective? Why or why not?



Now it's your turn

It's time to start writing your own cause and effect essay! You have already chosen your topic and written a thesis statement – now structure your introduction around your thesis statement.

- Keep referring back to your ordered plan of causes and effects to help you with the middle
- Remember to summarise what you have said and discuss potential resolutions in your conclusion
- Good luck!

Remember!

phrasal verbs of
cause & effect

deductive reasoning

relative
pronoun
phrases

back up your points with
evidence!

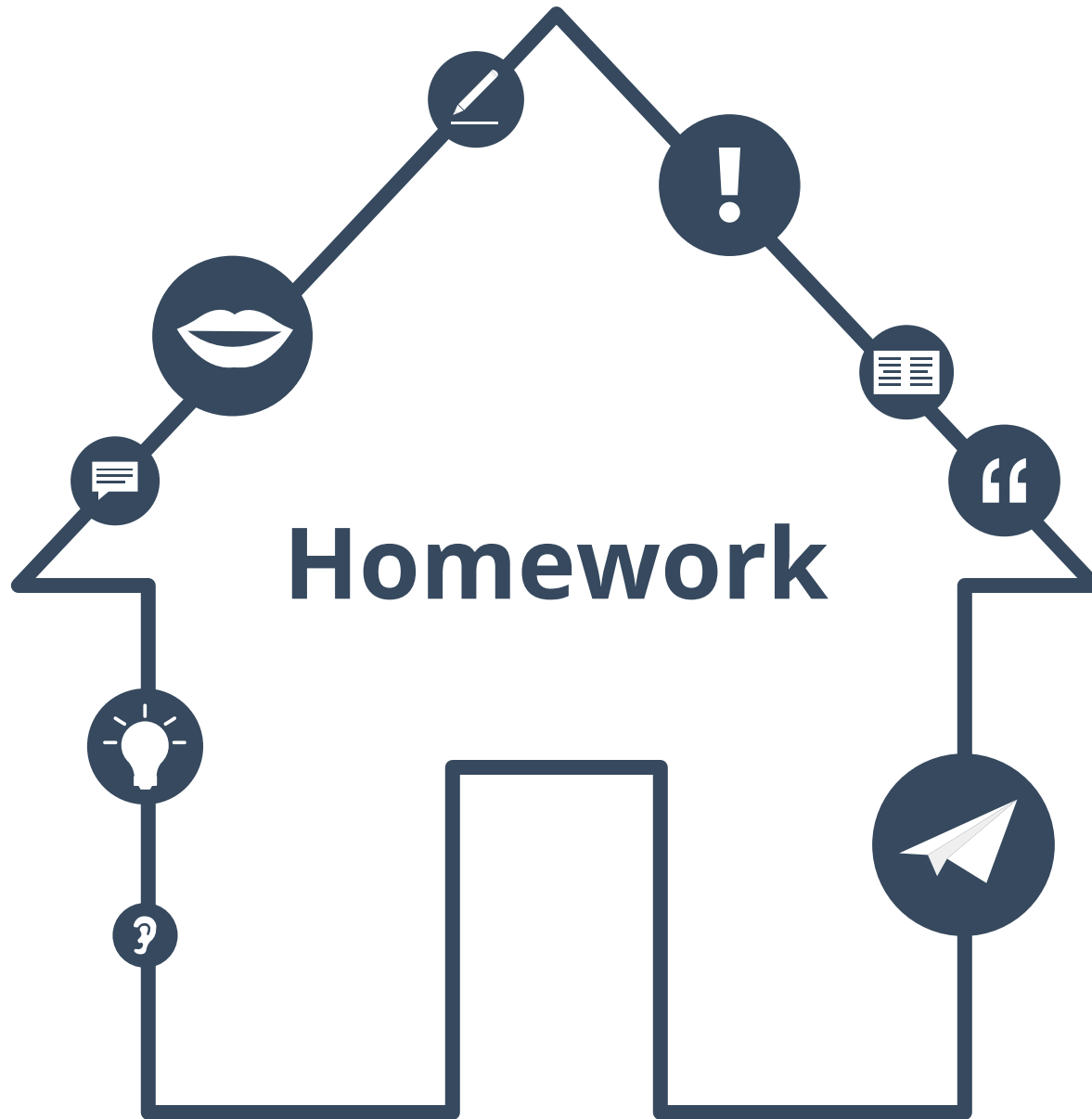


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







Editing activity

When you have finished your cause and effect essay, leave it for a day or two.

Come back to it with fresh eyes, and edit it. Is anything unclear? Make sure to rephrase it. Is there anything you could phrase more efficiently? Think of a different way of expressing it.

Then compare the before and after.
What do you notice?





Practise writing a cause and effect essay

Go back to slide 23 and select a new topic. Following the steps you have learnt in this lesson, write another cause and effect essay. Try to use different vocabulary to your choices in your first essay! There are plenty of phrasal verbs, nouns and relative pronoun phrases to choose from to make your language interesting.

<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	



About this material

Find out more at
www.lingoda.com



This material is provided by

lingoda

lingoda Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!