

17.Cause and Effect

An event happens only when there is a definite cause behind it. An event does not happen automatically. These causes are conditions under which these events happen. The scientific view of cause is one where:

It must be a scientifically proven fact that the cause leads to the said effect.

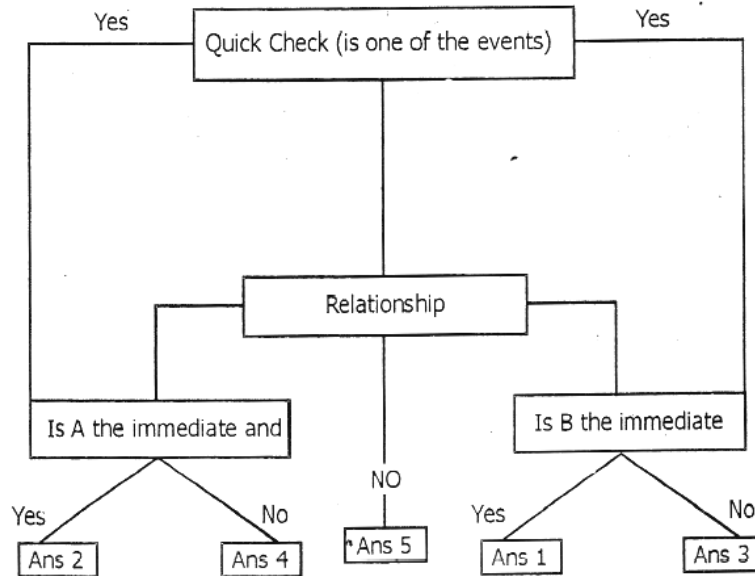
We see that how an effect takes place. An effect occurs only when there is a necessary as well as sufficient condition for that effect to take place. It is necessary here to make a distinction between necessary and sufficient condition. A necessary condition for the occurrence of a specified event is a circumstance in whose absence the event cannot occur. For example, the presence of oxygen is a necessary condition for fire. No fire can take place in absence of oxygen. A sufficient condition for the occurrence of an event is circumstance in whose presence the event must occur. The presence of oxygen is not a sufficient condition for fire because it is not so that whenever there is oxygen, there follows a fire. Fires take place only if the substance is (a) combustible (b) the substance reaches a minimum temperature and (c) there is oxygen present. Thus (a), (b) and (c) make the cause for the effect of fire. Thus, there may be several necessary conditions for the occurrence of an event and that they must all be included in. the sufficient conditions.

Principal cause

It is of utmost importance to clarify principal cause. Out of many causes for an event to happen there exists a cause which has weightage for an event to happen this is called principal cause.

Thumb rule

Cause is always antecedent, Naturally the cause will always occur before the effect. Hence if two events are given then the effect that is chronologically antecedent to the other one can only be regarded as a possible cause.

Methods of finding solution**Summary**

Cause is an event which leads to a said effect and this fact is either scientifically proven or logically expected. Technically, causes mean a sufficient condition, i.e., a collection of all necessary condition in the presence of which the effect must take place.

But, practically we mean cause to be the immediate and principal reason behind the effect.

An immediate cause means a cause that immediately precedes the effect and a principal cause means a cause that was the most important reason behind the effect.

Since cause must occur before the effect, we can merely look at the given two events first and by analysing the tense thus, we can declare which event can't be a cause. A complete solution strategy is given in the flow-chart.

DIRECTIONS: Read the events and mark your answer as:

- (1) If 'A' is the effect and 'B' is its immediate and principal cause.
- (2) If 'A' is the immediate and principal cause and 'B' is its effect.
- (3) If 'A' is an effect but 'B' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (4) If 'B' is an effect but 'A' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (5) None of these.

1. **Event A:** Madhuniita has got a strange skin infection that seems incurable.

Event B: Last week, Madhumita spent a week with the villagers of Sultanganj where water is not potable.

Sol. Event B in past tense, A in present. So A must be the effect. But we can't

definitely say if here skin infection is caused by the unproctable drinking water.

Ans.(3)

2. **Event A:** Young people watch a lot of MTV and rock videos.

Event B: Drug addiction is a big problem with our college-going generation.

Sol. The cause-effect scheme suggested here is simple, cultural, influence is cause, and drug addition is effect. But it is debatable if the said cultural influences are the main and immediate cause for the drug addiction. Can we surely say that if we stop all such broadcasts immediately, the problem will go away? We c ay diminish but it won't be wiped out. This is because drug addiction has several causes and cultural influence is on d not the principal one) of them. **Ans.(4)**

3. **Event A:** The doctor has advised Rani to take vitamin A and iron tablets.

Event B: Rani is anaemic.

Sol. The doctor must have given his advice because of Rani's complaint. **Ans.(1)**

4. **Event A:** Romeo loved beauty and innocence

Event B: Juliet was beautiful and innocent.

Sol. The two statements have no causal connection with each other. **Ans.(5)**

DIRECTIONS: Read the events and mark you answer as:

- (1) If 'A' is the effect and 'B' is its immediate and principal cause
- (2) If 'A' is the immediate and principal cause and 'B' is its effect.
- (3) If 'A' is an effect but 'B' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (4) If 'B' is an effect but 'A' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- (5) None of these.

5. **Event A:** The PM has announced that the Government will take measures to remove subsidies on fertilizers in a phased manner.

Event B: Subsidies on fertilizers result in a lot of loss of revenue to the government.

Sol. Loss of revenue must be the main cause behind PM's decision to stop subsidies.

Ans.(1)

6. **Event A:**Uttarkashi is very prone to earthquakes.

Event B:According to seismologists, there is a lot of tectonic activity going on in the belt below uttarkashi.

Sol. Tectonic activities underneath are the immediate and principal cause for the area being prone to earthquake. **Ans.(1)**

7. **Event A:** Indefinite curfew was imposed in Mubarakpur town of U.P.

Event B: Clashes between Shias & Sunnies left 11 people dead and scores injured.

Sol. Curfew has been imposed as a result of clashes between Shias & Sunnies. In it B is the principal or immediate cause while A is the effect. **Ans.(1)**

8. **Event A:** Curfew has been declared in the city.

Event B: There is hardly any visible activity in the city and the shops are closed.

Sol. Declaration of the curfew is the principal or immediate cause whose effect is seen with no activity going on in the city. **Ans.(2)**

9. **Event A:** Gross sales of goods and commodities in the state of M.P. are expected to go down.

Event B: MP Government has issued a decree to shutter down all the shops at 7:30 pm due to energy crisis.

Sol. Event A is the effect but we cannot say with certainty that event B is the immediate and principal cause. There could be other reasons for this too. **Ans.(3)**

Exercise

Directions (Q. 1-5): Below in each question are given two statements (A) and (B). These statements may be either independent cause or may be effects of independent causes or a common cause. One of these statements may be the effect of the other statements. Read both the statements and decide which of the following answer choice correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements.

Mark answer (1) if statement (A) is the cause and statement (B) is its effect.

Mark answer (2) if statement (B) is the cause and statement (A) is its effect.

Mark answer (3) if both the statements (A) and (B) are independent causes.

Mark answer (4) if both the statements (A) and (B) are effects of independent causes.

Mark answer (5) if both the statements (A) and (B) are effects of some common cause.

1. A. Parents in the locality decided to stop sending their children to school by private vehicle.

B. A major accident of a private van carrying school child led to deaths of a few and injuries for many children.

- 2.** A. The city observed the lowest temperature of the last decade accompanied by heavy fog during the week.
B. Most of the flights from the city were indefinitely delayed causing panic among the passengers.
- 3.** A. In the past few years the job market has improved for the professionally qualified youth.
B. Many youth are not able to get jobs up to their expectations.
- 4.** A. During peak hours roads are overcrowded with vehicle causing traffic jams in most parts of the city.
B. Many companies are planning to launch low-priced vehicles.
- 5.** A. During evening hours roads are overcrowded with vehicle causing very slow movement of vehicles.
B. Pollution level in the air has substantially increased in the recent past.
- 6.** (A) There have been heavy rains in the catchment area of the lakes supplying drinking water to the city.
(B) The municipal authority has suspended the proposed cut in water supply to the city.
- 7.** (A) Many pilgrims used Govt transport to travel to the holy shrine.
(B) The cost of travel by private transport is very high.
- 8.** (A) The price of vegetables have increased substantially during the past few weeks.
(B) Consumer price index at the end of the previous week increased by 2 per cent.
- 9.** (A) Many anti-social elements have been caught by the police from the locality.
(B) Many people in the locality have been detained by the police for questioning.
- 10.** (A) Many employees of the company proceeded on a day's leave on Friday.
(B) Both Thursday and Saturday were declared holiday by the company.
- 11.** A. There has been a continuous increase in average temperature during winter in many parts of the country over the past few years.
B. There has been significant changes in the wind pattern across the country over the last few years.
- 12.** A. The Conditions of all the major roads in the city have deteriorated causing hardship to motorists.
B. The municipal authority has sanctioned significant amount to repair all the major roads in the city.
- 13.** A. The BPO sector has laid off a large number of employees in the recent months.
B. Very few projects are now being outsourced to BPO sector.
- 14.** A. There has been sharp decline in sales of passenger cars during the last few months.

B. Many finance companies have announced attractive schemes of car loans with moderate interest rate.

15.A. All the airlines companies in India have increased the air fares in all routes with immediate effect.

B. There has been substantial reduction in aviation fuel prices in India during the past few weeks.

16.A. Computer education has been made compulsory for all the classes by many schools.

B. The current job market prefers computer-literate workforce.

17.A. The standard of education in evening colleges of the State has been deteriorating.

B. The standard of school education has been fast deteriorating in the State.

18.A. All domestic airlines increased the fares in all sectors with immediate effect.

B. Railways increased the fare of all its classes with immediate effect.

19.A. The prices of fruits and vegetables fell substantially over the last few days.

B. The quality of fruits and vegetables improved considerably over the last few days.

20.A. Recent floods in the area changed the nutritional contents of the soil.

B. Farmers in the area switched over to cultivating rice instead of wheat.

KEY:

1. 2: Clearly, the accident in B led to the decision in A.

2.1: The fog in A led to the flight delays in B.

3. 3: The two are contradictory and therefore can't be connected

4.5: Both are effects of a common cause people's desire to drive cars.

5.5: The overcrowding in A has led to pollution in B.

6. 1: Since there have been heavy rains, there will now be ample water and this will obviate the need to cut the water supply.

7. 2: Obviously, the high cost of private travel has given a boost to Govt transport.

8. 1: The rise in vegetable prices will be one of the factors in the increase in consumer price index.

9.5: Both are the effects of some crime having been committed or a suspicion thereof.

10.2: Clearly, employees have been prompted to go on leave on Friday because they would like to take advantage of (B).

11.2: Changes in wind pattern have caused increase in temperature.

12.1: The motorists' hardship has led to the municipal sanction.

13.2: Lack of project has led to the lay off.

14.1: the attractive schemes are attempts to boost sales.

15.4:

16.2: Job market is an important consideration in determining the curriculum of schools.

17. 5: There seems to be some common cause that is leading to deterioration in both kinds of education.

18. 5: Hike in fuel prices seems to be the common cause.

19.4: The two effects are unrelated.

20.1: The farmer's decision is apparently an effect of change in the soil.

Exercise

Directions (Q.1-30): Given below are pairs of events 'A' and 'B'. You have to read both the events 'A' and 'B' and decide their nature of relationship. You have to assume that the information given in 'A' and 'B' is true and you will not assume anything beyond the given information in deciding the answer.

Mark answer

- 1) If 'A' is the effect and 'B' is its immediate and principle cause.
- 2) If 'A' is the immediate and principle cause and 'B' is its effect.
- 3) If 'A' is an effect but 'B' is not its immediate and principle cause.
- 4) If 'B' is an effect but 'A' is not an immediate and principle cause.
- 5) None of these

1. **Event A:** Madan died while on way to the hospital.

Event B: A car dashed into the motorcycle Madan was driving.

2. **Event A:** Major Dayal was educated in one of the best educational institutions of India.

Event B: Major Dayal has extremely fluent speaking power.

3. **Event A:** People of Taslimganj eat a lot fruits and vegetables.

Event B: It has been noticed that the people of Taslimganj have less hypertension and related problems than the rest of the Indians.

4. **Event A:** Madhumita has got a strange skin infection that seems incurable.

Event B: Last week, Madhumita spent a week with the villagers of Sultanganj where water is not potable.

5. **Event A:** Manumita is suffering from scurvy.

Event B: Manumita has had inadequate intake of Vitamin C.

6. **Event A:** Young people in the colleges watch a lot of MTV and rock videos.

Event B: Drug addiction is a big problem with our college-going generation.

7. **Event A:** People in North Bihar take bath early in the morning even if it very cold.

Event B: In North Bihar cleanliness is valued more than in the rest of the India.

8. **Event A:** Orissa has a lot of Corruption
Event B: Orissa is one of the poorest states of our country.
9. **Event A:** The Second World War stopped after the US dropped two atomic bombs in Japan.
Event B: Hitler never surrendered during or after the War.
10. **Event A:** The doctor has advised Sonu to take Vitamin C tablets.
Event B: Sonu complained of cough and cold.
11. **Event A:** XYZ co. has recorded a 20% jump in its sales.
Event B: XYZ co. has reduced the prices of its products considerably.
12. **Event A:** Burglars came and stole cash and jewellery from Sony jewelers shop.
Event B: The owner of Sony jewelers shop went and registered a complaint of theft at the police station.
13. **Event A:** Romeo loved beauty and innocence.
Event B: Juliet was beautiful and innocent.
14. **Event A:** The MP has announced that the Government will take measures to remove subsidies on diesel in a phased manner.
Event B: Subsidies on diesel result in a lot of loss of revenue to the Government.
15. **Event A:** XYZ co. has benefited immensely by the Finance ministry's decision to free NAFTA from import duty.
Event B: The turnover of XYZ co. has almost doubled in the last financial year.
16. **Event A:** A peace accord was signed between the Government and the ultras and a popular government was democratically established in Mizoram.
Event B: Mizoram is peaceful now.
17. **Event A:** There is a lot of political uncertainty in the country.
Event B: The country faces its worst economic crisis of the decade.
18. **Event A:** The Indian Vikas Party promised to bring in a corruption-free government.
Event B: The Indian Vikas Party won the elections with a thumping margin.
19. **Event A:** BHM Ltd. Was plagued with a lot of labour problems in the year 1999-2000.
Event B: Production in BHM Ltd. Dropped by nearly 19% in the said year.
20. **Event A:** Uttarkashi is very prone to earthquakes.
Event B: According to seismologists, there is a lot of tectonic activity going on in the belt below Uttarkashi.
21. **Event A:** Reliance Multiferrrous Ltd. Has come out with very good financial results with this year.
Event B: Last year, Mr. Dhirubhai Lalwani, the CEO of Reliance, resigned.

22.**Event A:** The US crushed Iraq in the Gulf war.

Event B: The US had almost total international support in the gulf war.

23.**Event A:** India won the world cup cricket in 1983 despite being the underdogs.

Event B: Kapil Dev and Roger Binny played very well in the 1983 world cup.

24.**Event A:** Cogentrix Power Project proposal has been rejected by the Gov. of India.

Event B: Moody's has downgraded India's credit rating.

25.**Event A:** ABCL Ltd. has rejected the proposal of Doordarshan in which Dhoordarshan offered to buy software from ABCL.

Event B: Prices quoted by Doordarshan were very high.

26.**Event A:** India's proposal to delink social issues such as labour from trade issues was turned down at the WTO meet.

Event B: Indian proposal would have hurt the interests of the developed nations.

27.**Event A:** Nobody speaks to or makes friends with Shobhraj Khatri

Event B: Shobraj Khatri is an accused in a multiple- murder case.

28.**Event A:** The Revlon range of lipsticks is very costly, compared to other lipsticks of about the same quality.

Event B: The Revlon range has not been able to penetrate much of the market.

Cause and effect answers :

1.1 2.4 3.4 4.3 5.1 6.4 7.3 8.4 9.5 10.1 11.1 12.2 13.5 14.1
15.2 16.2 17.4 18.4 19.2 20.1 21.5 22.3 23.3 24.4 25.5 26.1
27.1 28.2