



Ready Reference Form

Goal: Comprehension	Strategy: Recognize and Explain Cause-and-Effect Relationships
Definition	Readers understand that in-text events happen (effects), along with the reason why they happen (causes). When students recognize this relationship, comprehension is increased.
Why Children Need This Strategy	The cause-and-effect relationship is a basic thinking skill and text structure for all types of reading and subject areas. Students use the understanding of this relationship in social studies, science, all school subjects, and day-to-day living, whether watching TV, playing games, or in friendships.
Secret to Success	Look for clue words that will signal what happened and why it happened.
How We Teach It	<p>Some clue words may include <i>because, if, then, since, so, therefore, as a result of.</i></p> <p>Explain the importance of cause and effect and how an author may structure and organize a section of the text using the cause-and-effect pattern. Show examples of this in the reading of a text. Through guided practice we ask students to identify the cause-and-effect relationship in different selections we read.</p> <p>At times we must infer the cause, since it is not always stated. If this is the case, we ask ourselves, “Why do I think this happened?” or “Why might this have happened?”</p> <p>Language we use: “What happened and why did it happen?” “What were the clue words?” “Why would this have happened?” “Give examples of cause-and-effect relationships throughout your life—in your family, in sports, and in your friendships.”</p>
Troubleshooting	Sometimes the causes are not stated, which makes it difficult for our more literal learners to figure out a cause-and-effect relationship. Therefore, we meet with students individually and generate a possible list of effects together. We then embed this in reading by asking the students to keep track of any cause-and-effect relationships they find in their reading or conversations at home. The more we practice this with students, the more easily they can identify stated causes or inferred causes.