

Academic Phrases: Cause and Effect

Verbs expressing causality

Lack of protein	<i>may cause</i> <i>can lead to</i> <i>can result in</i>	mental retardation.
-----------------	----------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------

Low levels of chlorine in the body	<i>can give rise to</i>	high blood pressure.
------------------------------------	-------------------------	----------------------

Much of the instability	<i>stems from</i>	the economic effects of the war.
-------------------------	-------------------	----------------------------------

Kwashiorkor is a disease Beri-beri is a disease Scurvy is a disease	<i>caused by</i> <i>resulting from</i> <i>stemming from</i>	insufficient protein. vitamin deficiency. lack of vitamin C.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------

Nouns expressing causality

The most <i>likely causes</i> of X are poor diet and lack of exercise.

A <i>consequence</i> of vitamin A deficiency is blindness.

Physical activity is an important <i>factor</i> in maintaining fitness.

Many other medications have an <i>influence</i> on cholesterol levels.

Another reason <i>why</i> Xs are considered to be important is that

Prepositional phrases expressing causality

200,000 people per year become deaf	<i>owing to because of as a result of</i>	a lack of iodine.
-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------	-------------------

Sentence connectors expressing causality

If undernourished and retarded children do survive to become adults, they have decreased learning ability.	<i>Therefore, Consequently, Because of this, As a result (of this),</i>	when they grow up, it will probably be difficult for them to find work.
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------

Adverbial phrases expressing causality

Malnutrition leads to illness and a reduced ability to work in adulthood,	<i>thus/thereby</i>	perpetuating the poverty cycle.
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------

The warm air rises above the surface of the sea,	<i>thus/thereby</i>	creating an area of low pressure.
--------------------------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------

Other examples

As a consequence of X , it appears that winds alone are not the causative factor of.....

Due to X and Y inflowing surface water becomes more dense as it

X and Y are important driving factors of Z.

The mixing of X and Y exerts a powerful effect upon Z through

Possible cause and effect relationships (expressed tentatively)

This suggests a weak link may exist between X and Y.

The human papilloma virus *is linked to* most cervical cancer.

Stomach cancer in many cases *may be associated with* certain bacterial infections.

A high consumption of seafood *could be associated with* infertility.

There is some evidence that X *may affect* Y.

Source: www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk