

15

Cause and Effect

I.B.1.2

Carla mentions a secret Kimee told her about Nick. Nick gets angry with Kimee. Kimee gets angry with Carla. Carla and Kimee play poorly in their next basketball game. Their team loses.

The important connections among these events are *why* they happened and *what* the results were. We call this **cause and effect**. You might describe it as a chain of events. One thing caused another, which caused yet another effect, and so on.

Look Look for clue words like *because*, *as a result*, *in order to*, and *that's why*. They help you to understand which events are causes, and which are the effects of those causes.

Example

In the section of "To Touch the Sky" titled "The Cost," there is an example of cause and effect that involves folding the wings of *SpaceShipOne*. Explain what the cause-and-effect relationship is and how it benefits the spaceship.

Lily's Answer

Because the wings can be folded back at an angle they cause the ship to slow down.

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This answer is a good start. Lily is correct in identifying the cause-and-effect relationship between the wings of the ship and its speed. But Lily didn't answer the second part of the question. She doesn't explain how this benefits, or helps, the spaceship.



Improving Lily's Answer

Lily could improve her answer by explaining *how* the cause-and-effect relationship benefits the spaceship. She could say that *because* the ship can slow down when it comes back to Earth, it doesn't need heat shields and can fly more cheaply and more often.



Connections The diagram below is an easy way to show cause and effect. Here, the arrows show that each step *causes* the next in a chain of events. (Sometimes, diagrams like this one show *sequence*, and the arrows show the order of events.) What is the last effect in this chain? Write your answer in the empty box.

