



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read to the student and help the student to record their answers.

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**Cause and effect** are about how one thing can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.  
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Listen to the story of Mouse and Lion. Think about *why* things happened the way they did.

Mouse and Lion live in the African grasslands. Lion is very large, and Mouse is very small. When Lion roars, the ground shakes. When Mouse squeaks, not even the grass shakes.

One day, Mouse smelled smoke. Mouse ran to find Lion. "Squeak, squeak!" Mouse squeaked. "I smell smoke, Lion! I think there is a fire!"

Lion looked around. He smelled the smoke, too. He lowered his huge head, and told Mouse to climb onto his back. Lion raced to the top of the highest hill, with Mouse holding on for dear life.

Lion saw the fire on the edge of the grasslands. He raised his head and roared his mighty roar. All the animals knew that special roar. It meant danger! They gathered their young ones, and ran to safety near the river.

Circle the most likely **cause** of each of these things that happened.

effect	cause
1. Why does the ground shake when Lion roars?	Lion is very big.
	Lion is always sleepy.

effect	cause
2. Why did Mouse run to find Lion?	Mouse smelled smoke.
	Mouse wanted to play hide-and-seek.

effect	cause
3. Why did Lion run to the top of the highest hill?	Lion is always sleepy.
	Lion wanted to see if there was a fire.

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4. Here is an effect: The animals all ran to safety near the river. What might have been the cause?

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### Answer Key

1. Lion is very big.
2. Mouse smelled smoke.
3. Lion wanted to see if there was a fire.
4. Accept any reasonable response, such as, the animals all knew that Lion's special roar meant danger.