

Opinion-based essays: cause/effect tasks

1. Identify the "Effects"

Underline the **effect** in each of the following sentences:

e.g. Lack of Vitamin C results in poor health.

1. Because of the poor sound quality of the recording, many students failed the listening test.
2. I could not concentrate in the exam because there was too much noise outside.
3. Smoking causes emphysema, a condition which affects the lungs making it difficult to breathe.
4. Due to the fact that he has no computer skills, he is finding it very hard to get a job.
5. The famine is partly due to the civil war.
6. I went home early because the shopping mall was too crowded.
7. Due to poor weather conditions, Flight Number 333 to Hong Kong is delayed.
8. Lack of discipline in the classroom leads to poor results among students.
9. Spending too much time in front of a computer causes eye problems.
10. The cause of the crash was human error.

2. Matching "Effects" to their "Causes"

Match the sentence beginnings below with a correct ending:

1. Poor eating habits lead to... (F)	A. ...bad drivers.
2. Eating too many sweets results in...	B. ...accidents.
3. Lung cancer is due to...	C. ...plants to die.
4. Car accidents are a result of...	D. ...so I failed the test.
5. Driving too fast results in...	E. ...being lonely.
6. Lack of water causes...	F. ...bad health.
7. Obesity is caused by...	G. ...expensive weddings.
8. I did not study enough...	H. ...diabetes.
9. Living in the hostel lead to...	I. ...eating too much food.
10. Borrowing money from the bank is caused by...	J. ...smoking.

3. Making Sentences

It is important to remember that in life ("the real world" || "reality") causes come first and effects come next. However, we can write about these cause → effect relationships in two ways:

We can start with the **cause**

Cause	→	Effect
1. Expensive weddings...	lead(s) to	...no money for a honeymoon.
2. Expensive weddings...	result(s) in	...financial problems later on.
3. Expensive weddings...	cause(s)	...arguments between the bride and groom.
4. It was raining...	so,	...I went out to play
5. I got IELTS 5.5...	therefore,	...I had a party

We can start with the **effect**

Effect	→	Cause
1. They didn't have a honeymoon...	because	...their wedding was so expensive.
2. They played outside...	due to	...the cool weather and rain.
3. Divorce is sometimes...	a result of	...wedding day debt.
4. Tiredness...	is caused by	...staying up late and watching TV.

Now write some sentences, 5 starting with a **cause** and 5 starting with an **effect**:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

