

CAUSE AND EFFECT vocabulary

English Collocations in Use

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Talking about cause and effect

A Different 'cause' verbs

topic	verb	examples
negative events, situations and feelings	cause	The storm caused chaos / havoc / a lot of damage . Her remarks caused alarm/concern . Her son's behaviour caused her great anxiety / a lot of embarrassment .
positive and negative changes	bring about	The discovery of X-rays brought about a revolution/transformation in medical science. The events brought about the downfall/collapse of the government.
positive and negative situations and feelings	create	His book helped create awareness of inner-city poverty. Your presence on the committee is creating problems for all of us.
sudden, often negative, events	spark off	The announcement sparked off riots/demonstrations in the cities. His wife's absence sparked off rumours in the media.
reactions from people	attract	His book has attracted a lot of criticism/interest . The charity appeal attracted support from a wide range of people.
results and effects	produce	My comments produced the opposite effect to what I intended. His research has not yet produced any results , but we must wait.

B Causes and effects

The immediate cause of the problem was an oil leak.	The underlying cause of the problem was a lack of funds over many years.
The government hopes to reduce/minimise the impact of the new taxes.	The support she got from the Prime Minister strengthened/increased the impact of her report.
The new measures had an unexpected/unforeseen outcome .	The new tax led to the predictable/inevitable outcome that many people became poorer.
The positive/beneficial effects of the changes were soon apparent.	The negative/adverse effects of the changes were not noticed immediately.
The crisis was the direct/inevitable result of bad economic planning.	One indirect/unforeseen result of the new laws has been a rise in unemployment.

C Common expressions for everyday events

The book **caused an uproar** in the United States. [made a lot of people complain angrily]
If you make him angry, you'll have to **suffer the consequences**.
The accident **had a huge effect** on her life.
Latino singers have **had a major impact** on pop music this year.
Remember that it **makes/creates a bad impression** if you're late.
The drug companies have a lot of **influence** on doctors.
Their love affair **caused a sensation**.