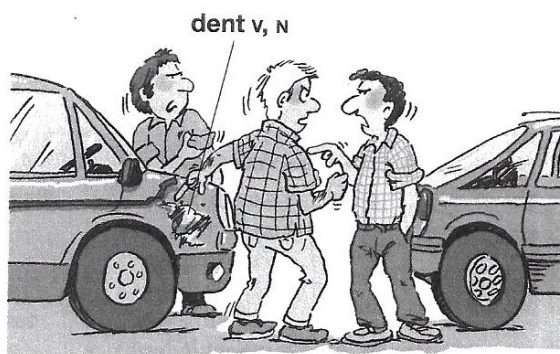


52 I can describe cause and effect

A Actions and reactions

The **road rage** thing was all **sparked** by a trivial **incident**. The guy behind me kept blowing his horn and it was **driving me mad**. When we stopped at the lights, my passenger Phil **egged me on** to have a word with him. I got out, we started arguing, **one thing led to another** and . . . , well, I kicked his car and **dented** it. He **retaliated** and kicked mine, and Phil, who is easily **provoked**, joined in. I realize I **overreacted**, and I'm shocked at my own behaviour; I think it all **boils down to** the fact that I haven't been well lately. All I can say is that it was an unfortunate **chain of events**, that's for sure . . .



Glossary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| road rage | angry or violent behaviour by one driver towards another driver. |
| spark sth (off) | cause sth to start or develop suddenly. |
| incident | sth that happens, especially sth unusual or unpleasant. |
| drive sb mad/crazy/insane | make sb very angry, crazy, etc. |
| egg sb on | INF encourage sb to do sth, especially sth they should not do. |
| one thing leads to another | used to suggest that the way one event leads to another is so obvious that it does not need to be stated. |
| retaliate | do sth harmful to sb because they harmed you first. retaliation N. |
| provoke sb (into sth) | say or do sth that you know will annoy sb so that they react angrily. SYN goad sb. provocation N. |
| overreact (to sth) | react too strongly to sth, especially sth unpleasant. |
| boil down to sth | INF (of a situation) have sth as a main or basic part. |
| chain of events | a number of connected events that happen one after the other. SYN sequence of events. |

1 Circle the correct word(s). In some cases, both may be correct.

- 1 My neighbour's loud music drives / sparks me crazy.
- 2 She attacked me and, stupidly, I retaliated / egged her on.
- 3 He was provoked / goaded into a huge argument.
- 4 It's very common to overreact / boil down to provocation.
- 5 It was a very unfortunate sequence / chain of events, which ended in court.
- 6 How exactly did the incident / dent end?
- 7 One thing led / went to another, and I found myself the owner of a new car.
- 8 Don't mention her ex-boyfriend; it will only drive / provoke her again.

B Causes, reasons, and results 🎧

- A What **aroused** the police's suspicions?
 B Well, Sims had a clear **motive**: revenge.
- A What was the **outcome** of the discussion?
 B We were eventually **coerced into** agreeing.
- A The flood had a **knock-on effect** on tourism.
 B Yes, it was bound to have **repercussions**.
- A What **prompted** you to ring Nina?
 B **No reason** – just fancied a chat.
- A We're considering various **spin-offs**.
 B That should **generate** more income.
- A Has the smoking ban **come into effect**?
 B Yes, it's already **made a big difference**.

spotlight effect

If a law or regulation **comes into effect**, it begins to apply or be used. **Knock-on effects** cause events to happen one after another in a series. An **adverse** or **detrimental effect** is a negative or unpleasant one (OPP a **beneficial** effect).

Glossary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| arouse sth | make sb have a particular feeling or attitude. arouse (sb's) suspicion/curiosity . |
| motive | a reason for doing sth. |
| outcome | the result of a situation or event (final outcome SYN end result). |
| coerce sb (into doing sth) | FML force sb to do sth. coercion N. |
| repercussions | unintended and usually unwelcome results of an action or event. SYN consequences . |
| prompt sb to do sth | make sb decide to do sth. |
| no reason | often used when you do not want to say why you have done sth. |
| spin-off | a new product that is based on another that already exists. |
| generate sth | produce or create sth (generate income/profit/jobs). |
| make a difference | have an effect on sth, usually a good effect. |

3 Match 1–8 with a–h.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1 We don't want to feel | a income. |
| 2 The incident aroused | b effect. |
| 3 I believe it will make a big | c spin-offs. |
| 4 The decision had an adverse | d repercussions. |
| 5 The move will have serious | e suspicion. |
| 6 The suspect had a clear | f coerced. |
| 7 The company is planning commercial | g difference. |
| 8 The move generated considerable | h motive. |

4 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?

- The house took a long time to build, but the end is fantastic.
- What made you ring Robert? ~ Oh, reason.
- The new law came effect at the beginning of June.
- Too much sunlight can have a effect on your skin.
- Current levels of deforestation will have long-term.
- I'm not really sure what him to resign so suddenly.
- What was the final of the talks in Bali?
- One indirect result or knock-on will be price rises throughout the economy.