

## Cause and Effect

Developing critical thinking skills is a necessary step toward becoming a proficient reader. Learning to determine abstract relationships, such as cause and effect, will help the student's reading comprehension.

A cause is anything that produces an effect. In a scenario such as, "Olivia's mother is coming over, so Olivia cleaned the house," the effect is Olivia cleaned the house. The event which caused this is Olivia's mother coming over.

It may be beneficial to develop a series of interesting cause and effect relationships. Help the student determine the cause and effect of each relationship.

Further, discuss how one cause may produce multiple effects. For example, Jan practiced soccer every day. Because she practiced so often, she made the school soccer team and she developed muscular legs. Jan's practicing was the cause of two effects: making the team and developing muscles.

Help the student begin to recognize cause and effect relationships using simple examples such as:

The student can't go to the party because he or she didn't take out the trash.

Cause: The student didn't take out the trash.

Effect: The student can't go to the party.