

Cause and effect

Reading 1

Notice some of the ways in which the following single sentence can be added to and commented on.

I'm going to continue with my English,

because	I like the language.
because of	this book.
owing to	its importance in the world of business.
on account of	what my teachers have told me.
in case	I need it one day.
in order to	take Proficiency next year.
so as not to	forget what I've learnt.
so that	<i>I can work in the States one day.</i>
whether	you think it's a good idea or not.
wherever	I go.
whatever	happens.
whichever	country I go to next.
however	difficult the next stage is.
regardless	of my slow progress so far.
even if	I have to give up all my other interests.
whenever	I can.
if	it's possible.
providing	I can find a teacher.
provided that	someone agrees to teach me.
unless	you persuade me that Chinese is more useful.
although	I know I'm not the most gifted linguist.
even though	I'm a very busy person.
in spite of	the cost of these lessons.
despite	what you've said about my slow progress.
but	I think I'll give up Russian.
whereas	everyone else in the class is giving up.
unlike	the others, who are stopping.
as opposed to	my Japanese.
so	you'll see me again next term.
which	is a bit silly, I suppose,
considering	I live on a desert island.

Practice

What do you think of English now? Which of these statements apply to you? (Notice how cause and effect are expressed.)

- 1 A lot of my problems stem from trying to translate from my language.
- 2 My hesitation in speech is caused by a lack of vocabulary.
- 3 Some basic errors can be traced back to the way I learnt English at the beginning.
- 4 My large vocabulary is a direct consequence of knowing two other European languages.
- 5 Most of my problems have their roots in grammatical uncertainty.
- 6 Studying vocabulary has led to a better understanding of how English works.
- 7 More vocabulary means more fluency.
- 8 Learning a lot of words can result in confusion.

Reading 2

Notice, in this final and more difficult section, how a sentence can be added to, strengthened or balanced.

The illogical nature of much of English grammar makes it an unfortunate choice as a world language, **let alone** the leading one.

Consequently, many non-native speakers resent having English forced upon them. All possible attempts should be made, **therefore**, to further the cause of Esperanto.

For this reason, we should all try to ensure that French is not lost as an international language.

In spite of this - or **because of** it, perhaps - English has been the vehicle for much of the world's greatest literature.

It does, **however**, prove to be a relatively easy language for most people to learn, **at least** in the early stages.

On the other hand, no other language can boast the richness and versatility that English has acquired over the centuries.

Furthermore, its vocabulary is impossibly imprecise, its preposition usage totally ridiculous, **not to mention** the absurdity of its spelling rules.

Moreover, it has lost so much of its charm over the past few decades that it no longer represents a satisfying subject for study.

What is more, the language has diversified into so many forms that most English speakers the world over would have difficulty in understanding each other.

Besides, who really wants a world language anyway? **In fact**, who needs language?

- From now on, you will no doubt meet other ways of connecting two ideas. Make a note of them with examples below.