



## Academic Writing Podcast 12 – Cause and Effect Part 1

### Sample Text

A team of Russian scientists recently grew a narrow-leafed campion plant from tissue that was nearly 32,000 years old, **provoking** significant attention from plant biologists. The **origin of** the ancient plant material was a squirrel burrow in Siberia, and the surprising viability of the tissue was **largely determined** by the permanently frozen environment of the burrow. The scientists first tried to germinate the plant's seeds; the failure of this process **triggered** an attempt to clone tissue from the plant's fruit instead, which grew successfully. Seeds and fruits from the narrow-leafed campion plant **account for** a large percentage of the nearly 600,000 plant samples found in the Siberian squirrel burrow, but numerous other plants in the burrow could possibly grow in the lab with positive **outcomes**. The scientists' research will **have a considerable influence on** future experiments to grow ancient plants. This line of research will have many important **consequences**, including the possibility that we may one day be able to grow new plants from long-extinct species<sup>1</sup>.

### Glossary

#### 1) to determine

*to discover the facts about something; to calculate something exactly*

- An inquiry was set up to **determine** the cause of the accident.
- The economic performance of the world's six major economies will **largely determine** growth patterns for the world as a whole over the next 20 years.
- As he sees it, international law leaves it up to each nation to **determine** whether to pursue criminal or civil actions.
- Upbringing plays an important part **in determining** a person's character.

#### 2) influence (noun)

*the effect that somebody/something has on the way a person thinks or behaves or on the way that something works or develops*

**to have a considerable (large, significant, powerful) influence on** somebody

<sup>1</sup> Sample text based on these articles: [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/21/science/new-life-from-an-arctic-flower-that-died-32000-years-ago.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/21/science/new-life-from-an-arctic-flower-that-died-32000-years-ago.html?_r=1) and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-17100574>



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**exert** a strong **influence** on somebody

- The cultural geography of the Sunni and the Shia has a **considerable influence** on the political geography of Iraq.
- Chirkov and Ryan (2001) found that perceived autonomy support had a **significant influence on** motivation and academic well-being in Russian students.
- Peers often exert a more **powerful influence on** decisions and actions than parents or other authority figures.

### 3) to provoke

*to cause a particular reaction or have a particular effect*

- Dairy products may **provoke** allergic reactions in some people.
- The dynamics of the group situation may **provoke** or reinforce aggressive behavior
- The article was intended to **provoke** discussion.

### 4) to trigger (for something / to do something)

*something that is the cause of a particular reaction or development, especially a bad one*

- Intense sunlight may be a **trigger to** skin cancer.
- In global economy energy shortages might **trigger** massive socioeconomic disruption.
- To most people, hurricanes **trigger** thoughts of danger and destruction.

### 5) to account for something

*to be the explanation or cause of something*

- Researchers in the future should determine if the effects described in the article **account for** our findings.
- These two factors **account for** 55.591% of the total variance.
- The North accounted for 32 percent of the world's population in 1900, 25 percent in 1970, and about 18 percent in 2000. By 2050, it will likely **account for** just 10 percent.
- The combined cost of the two wars **accounts for** only 10-15 percent of the country's annual deficit.

### 6) (major) consequence (of something) (for somebody/something)

*a result of something that has happened*

- This decision could have **serious consequences** for the industry.
- After the president's statements there were some very painful **consequences** for us.
- Drug policy in the 1980s had **major consequences** for American society in general and for members of minority groups in particular.
- They must be able to anticipate the legal **consequences** of their actions.

### in consequence (of something)

- The child was born deformed **in consequence of** an injury to its mother.
- **In consequence of** the vast imbalance between genders among Ss, coefficients were calculated independently for women and for men.



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### 7) the origin of

*the point from which something starts; the cause of something*

- Most coughs are viral **in origin** (= caused by a virus).
- Evidence for a developmental **origin of** health and disease could be partly the result of greater exposure to oxidants.
- There are several theories about the **origin of** this practice.
- To explore the thesis 12 items were employed to measure the four sets of beliefs about the **origin of** poverty.

### 8) a (positive) outcome to the (discussions)

*the result or effect of an action or event*

- Four possible **outcomes** have been identified.
- Reluctantly accepting such a de facto partition would be a profoundly disappointing **outcome** to the United States' ten-year Afghan investment.
- Collaborative knowledge building is a **desired outcome** of working, playing, and learning.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>Voices: Imanni Wilkes Burg and Grant Newman