**Cause and Effect[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**The relationship between two situations can be shown in a variety of ways:**

CAUSE: heavy rain

Heavy rain *causes* ﬂooding.

Heavy rain *leads to* ﬂooding.

Heavy rain *results in* ﬂooding.

Heavy rain *produces* ﬂooding.

EFFECT:

ﬂooding

EFFECT:

ﬂooding

CAUSE: heavy rain

Flooding *is caused by* heavy rain. (note use of passive)

Flooding *is produced by* heavy rain.

Flooding *results from* heavy rain.

**2. It is also possible to use conjunctions which demonstrate cause and effect.**

**Cause Effect**

because (of) so

since therefore

as consequently

owing to Which is why

due to

***Example***

*Because* it rained heavily, the ﬂooding was severe.

(because + verb)

The ﬂooding occurred *because of* days of heavy rain.

(because + noun)

*As/since* it rained heavily, the ﬂooding was severe.

(conjunction + verb)

*Owing to/due to*

the heavy rain the ﬂooding was severe.

(conjunction + noun)

(also: Owing to it raining . . .)

It rained heavily for days, *therefore* the ﬂooding was severe.

(used in mid-sentence)

NB It is more common to use conjunctions to illustrate

particular situations.

**3. Decide whether the following are particular or general, then complete them with a suitable verb or conjunction.**

a) Childhood vaccination . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . reduced infant mortality.

b) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . the cold winter hospital admissions increased.

c) Printing money . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . higher inﬂation.

d) The summer was extremely dry, .................. . . . . . . . . . . many trees died.

e) In 2003, falling sales ........................... . . . . . . the company closing two factories.

**Write two more sentences from your own subject area.**

f)

g)

**4. Use conjunctions to complete the following paragraph.**

WHY WOMEN LIVE LONGER

Some British scientists now believe that women live longer than men a) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . T cells, a vital

part of the immune system that protects the body from diseases. Previously, various theories have attempted to explain longer female life expectancy. Biologists claimed that women lived longer b) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . they need to bring up children. Others argued that men take more risks, c) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . they die earlier. But a team from Imperial College think that the difference may be d) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . women having better immune systems. Having studied a group of men and women they found that the body produces fewer T cells as it gets older, e) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . the ageing process. However, they admit that this may not be the only factor, and f) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . another research project may be conducted.

1. Adapted from Bailey (2003) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)