



Cause and effect

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read along with the student, helping as needed.

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**Cause and effect** are about how one thing can cause something else to happen.

The **cause** is *why* something happened.

The **effect** is *what* happened.  
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Here is a story about Camel and Pig. Think about **cause** and **effect** as you read.

The Camel and the Pig

Camel walked along the street, thinking aloud, "There's nothing like being tall! Look how tall I am!"

Pig, hearing Camel's bragging, said, "There's nothing like being short! Look how short I am!"

Camel was very offended by these words. "Why, I can prove to you that it is far better to be tall. If I fail to prove this, I shall give up my hump."

"And if I fail to prove that it is better to be short, I shall give up my curly tail," said Pig.

"Agreed!" said Camel.

"Agreed!" said Pig.

They came to a garden, surrounded by a low wall, with no gate. Camel stood outside the garden, reaching over the wall with his long neck to have a nice breakfast of the tender plants inside. He turned to Pig, who could not even see over the wall to get a look at all the good things in the garden. "Now, would you rather be tall or short?" Camel said to Pig. Pig did not reply.

Next they came to another garden, surrounded by a high wall, with a small covered gate on one end. Pig went through the gate, and feasted on the vegetables. When he came out, he laughed at Camel, who had had to stay outside because he was too tall to enter the garden through the small gate. "Now, would you rather be tall or short?" Pig said to Camel. Camel did not reply.

Then they thought the matter over and came to the conclusion that Camel should keep his hump and Pig should keep his curly tail. For, as Pig observed, "Tall is good when tall is needed; of short, the same is true."

Circle the most likely **cause** of each of these things that happened.

effect	cause
1. Pig said it is better to be short. Why did Pig say that it is better to be short?	Camel bragged that it is better to be tall.
	Camel bragged about his hump.

effect	cause
2. Pig couldn't eat the food in the garden with the low wall. Why couldn't Pig eat the food in the garden with the low wall?	Pig was too short to reach over the wall.
	Pig was proud of his curly tail.

effect	cause
3. Camel couldn't eat the food in the garden with the high wall. Why couldn't Camel eat the food in the garden with the high wall?	Pig bragged that it is better to be short.
	Camel was too tall to get through the low gate.

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4. Here is an effect: Camel and Pig decided that Camel could keep his hump, and Pig could keep his curly tail.  
 What might have been the cause?

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## Answer Key

1. Camel bragged that it is better to be tall.
2. Pig was too short to reach over the wall.
3. Camel was too tall to get through the low gate.
4. Accept any reasonable response, such as, they found that sometimes it is better to be tall, and sometimes it is better to be short.