

Cause and Effect

- A **cause** is why something happens. An **effect** is what happens.
- A **cause** may have more than one **effect**.
- An **effect** may have more than one **cause**.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

Anthony was just a kid—a kid who had to make a big decision. Anthony’s aunt in Italy wanted him to come spend the summer with her family. His parents kept telling him how wonderful it would be for him and how happy it would make his aunt. But Anthony was nervous—he didn’t even like sleepovers and could never sleep. How could he go all that way to Italy all by himself? How could he leave his family for

two whole months? He really didn’t want to go. He barely knew his aunt.

Anthony couldn’t sleep. He couldn’t eat, and he felt nervous all of the time. Finally, he told his parents that he had decided not to go. Anthony’s stomach immediately felt better. He felt calm. He slept well for the first time. He knew he had made the right decision.

1. What effect did worrying about the trip have on Anthony?

He felt nervous, couldn’t eat, and couldn’t sleep.

2. How did Anthony feel about going away for the summer?

He didn’t know his aunt well and didn’t want to go.

3. What happened to Anthony after he made his decision?

He felt better.

4. What might be the “big idea” of this story?

Possible response: In this story, Anthony listens to his feelings and makes the right decision.



Home Activity Your child learned about cause and effect. Do an experiment with your child. If it’s hot out, have your child put an ice cube in a bowl outside. Ask him or her what happened to the ice cube after an hour. If it’s cold out, put a shallow pan of water outside. Ask him or her what happened to the water after a few hours. Have your child tell the cause and effect of the experiment.