Cause and effect

Learning at a distance

1. "We've found that it's the convenience and informality of these members-teachmembers sites that make them so appealing," says Michael Stewart, head of the Washington Language Center, "as well as the fact that there are thousands of study partners to choose from." These features may account for the rapid growth in the number of people using the websites. The largest, ConversiLines, already has 200,000 members after only twelve months in operation.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE.

 From lines 12-17 we learn why people .................................................................... . (learning at a distance)

Where is the end of the line?

1. Studies have also revealed that people are upset the most when they see someone who arrived after them getting served first, an experience described by participants as "infuriating" and "incredibly unfair." Another major cause of irritation is boredom. In a recently published study, nearly 40% of the people interviewed gave it as the main reason for walking out before being served. In other studies, customers spoke about the disruption that being stuck in lines causes to their schedule.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. From all the studies mentioned in lines 7-12 we learn why people ........................... ...................................................................................

Teacher man

1. McCourt liked to say that his years as a teacher, while depriving him of the time to write, were actually what made a writer out of him. His students learned from him that literature was nothing more – and nothing less – than telling stories. Many of them said that the most inspiring hours in his classroom were spent listening to him sharing experiences from his own life. McCourt described his strategy more modestly. "Instead of teaching, I told stories. Anything to hold their attention," he said. "They thought I was teaching." Apparently, they were right: quite a few of his former students became published authors.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. In the quotation in lines 11-13, McCourt explains why ............................................ .....................................................................

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1. While still a teacher McCourt managed to get some writing done, contributing articles on life in Ireland to local magazines. Then in 1977, he and his brother Malachy wrote a play based on a number of autobiographical episodes. This journey into the past motivated McCourt to write about his childhood in Ireland. The result was Angela's Ashes, written after he retired from teaching and published in 1996. The critics, delighted by the language and gripped by the story, gave McCourt the kind of praise that writers dream of. The public was equally enthusiastic, making the book an international bestseller overnight. None of this came as a surprise to McCourt's former students. As one of them says, "We all thought he was such a genius. Everybody knew he was destined for great things. When he became a worldwide success, we felt justice had been done." (Adapted from "McCourt

 Give ONE thing we learn about Angela's Ashes from lines 26-33. COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. We learn why the book ..........................................................................................

Understanding your pet module F

1. Although much of the information in Animal Companions is quite technical, the book is written in a clear and often entertaining style. Moreover, it contains quite a few surprising facts. How many people know that dog food can be dangerous for cats, or that fish have a better memory than is generally believed? In short, the book provides fascinating reading whether or not you own a pet. And if you do, it may go a long way to improving your animal's quality of life. (

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. In lines 24-29, the writer of the review explains why he .........................................

Andy wilson

1. It was a very small role, but what I remember most vividly is that it took me almost a year to get it. I made recordings of the most dramatic voices I could do and submitted them to dozens of agencies. Still, it was months before I was even asked to do an audition because most directors are reluctant to take a chance on a newcomer. But once you get your first job, more offers usually come in. At least that's how it was for me. And I must say I'm very glad I didn't give up despite all the rejection letters I received that first year. The diversity in my work ensures no two days are alike. So here I am, actually making money doing something I love.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. Andy mentions "diversity" (line 29) to explain why he ........................................... .................................................................................... .

London's Unwanted Guest

1. It has also been suggested that the warmer summers Britain has had in recent years may be responsible. So far, no research has been done to test any of the ideas. But whatever the reason for their large numbers, the fact is that the parakeets have become a serious nuisance to Londoners. They eat the fruit off the trees, make a mess of the city's parks and gardens, and wake residents up with

COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. The information in lines 20-23 helps explain why Londoners ....................... ......................................................................................................... . (

Chess go to school

1. This was Justin's first major chess competition, and the third that Oak Park has won. Melissa Jones, head of the chess program, attributes much of the team's success to the school's policy and atmosphere. All students, she explains, are required to take weekly chess classes as part of the regular school day, and beginners are given a chance to practice with advanced learners. Moreover, the whole school shows its support for the team, especially in the weeks before important competitions. Jones points to eye-catching posters hung along the corridors, with photos of all the team members. "These were made by our youngest students," she says.

According to lines 6-13, why do Oak Park students prepare posters? ................................................................................................................ . (8 points)

Bookstores under threat module F

**9**. These are not easy times for bookstores. Competition from Internet shopping sites has already forced many of them to fire employees or even close down completely. Now they are faced with yet another threat: the rapid increase in the popularity of e-books – electronic versions of books, which are bought on the Internet and read on a screen. Our reporter spoke to Henry Mariner, owner of Mariner's Books in Sommerville, to see how bookstores are coping.

1. What is explained in lines 1-6?

 (i) Why e-books were invented.

(ii) Why books are sold on the Internet.

(iii) Why bookstores are in trouble.

 (iv) Why Mariner's Books is successful.

**10** Within the next five years, e-books are expected to account for over 50% of all book sales. Does this surprise you?

 Not at all. Unfortunately for us it's understandable, given the convenience of having a book transferred instantly onto your screen, and the fact that you can take your whole library with you wherever you go. And there's also the matter of price. E-books do not require printing, storage, or delivery, all of which cost a great deal of money. Consequently, a publisher can offer the electronic version of a book at a considerably lower price than bookstores can sell the printed version of the same book. All this is forcing us to find new strategies that will help us stay in business.

E-books don't require printing, storage, or delivery. Why does Henry mention this fact? (lines 9-15) COMPLETE THE ANSWER. To explain why e-books ............................................................................................

**. 11.** Despite all these efforts, it is becoming very difficult to ensure the safety of satellites. "It's getting so crowded up there that a serious collision is likely to happen in the near future," says NASA physicist Jenny Gonzales. "And if one satellite is destroyed, the pieces could hit other satellites nearby, causing them all to stop working. Then whole communication systems could collapse."

 What is explained in lines 14-18?

1. Why it is difficult for NASA to watch the junk in space.
2. (ii) Why the chance of a serious collision is increasing.
3. (iii) Why many satellites have stopped working.
4. (iv) Why there are now more satellites in space

**12.** Wasn't something like this tried in the past? You must mean Amsterdam's famous "White Bicycle" plan in the 1960s, when the city repaired old bicycles, painted them white, and left them on the streets for anyone to use. Unfortunately, most of the bikes were stolen or fell apart and couldn't be used. That got our engineers experimenting and they've developed a much sturdier bike. And we're using a sophisticated electronic rental system to discourage theft. The same system sends data to a central computer that can monitor each bike's condition and location. That way we're able not only to service them quickly, but also to move them around so they're available where they're most needed at different times of the day

What can we understand from lines 12-19 about Amsterdam's White Bicycle program? COMPLETE THE SENTENCE. We can understand why the program .......................................................................

Comic strips are extremely popular in Britain nowadays, with a recent survey showing that 84% of newspaper readers go straight to the comics pages. However, according to the same survey, only 10% know the names of the artists who create them. Now the National Journalists Association (NJA) has decided to focus public attention on these talented individuals by awarding five annual prizes for Outstanding Comic Strip Artis

According to lines 1-6, why did the NJA decide to focus public attention on comic strip artists? COMPLETE THE ANSWER. Because .................................................................................................................... . (8 points)