

Causal Inferences

Making connections to understand why things happen.

What are Causal Inferences?

Causal inferences help us figure out why something happened. We do this by looking at clues in the text, using what we already know, and making a smart guess about what caused the event and its effects.

Worked Example

Passage:

It started raining heavily just before recess. By the time the bell rang, the playground was flooded, and the students had to stay indoors.

Comprehension Questions:

1. Why were the students unable to play outside?
2. What caused the playground to flood?

Stepwise Explanation:

1. Identify clues in the text: **"It started raining heavily"** and **"the playground was flooded."**
2. Use your background knowledge: **Rain can cause flooding, making areas unsuitable for playing.**
3. Make a causal inference: **The heavy rain caused the playground to flood, so students stayed indoors.**

Student Practice

Passage 1:

The leaves on the trees turned orange, yellow, and red. Soon after, the wind began to blow, and the leaves started falling to the ground.

- Why did the leaves change color?
- What caused the leaves to fall to the ground?

Write your answer here

Passage 2:

The classroom grew very quiet as the teacher suddenly stopped talking and gave everyone a serious look. The students quickly stopped whispering and started paying attention.

- What caused the students to stop whispering?
- What effect did the teacher's serious look have?

Write your answer here

Passage 3:

Ryan spilled water on the kitchen floor. His little brother, unaware of the spill, walked into the kitchen and slipped. He began to cry loudly.

- Why did Ryan's brother slip?
- What caused him to cry?

Write your answer here

Passage 4:

After the science experiment was over, the room was filled with a strange smell. Most students started covering their noses and moved to the back of the room.

- What caused the strange smell?
- Why did the students cover their noses?

Write your answer here

 Reflection

Answer the following questions to reflect on what you learned:

1. What is a causal inference?
2. What was the hardest part of making causal inferences?
3. What strategies helped you understand causal inferences better?

Write your reflection here



Character Motivation Inferences Worksheet

Learn how to determine why characters do what they do by using clues and your own knowledge!

What is Character Motivation Inference?

Character motivation inference is figuring out why a character acts, speaks, or thinks a certain way. Authors may not always tell you directly why a character does something. Instead, they give clues in the story, such as the character's words, actions, or feelings. By combining these clues with what you already know about people and situations, you can make a smart guess about their motivation.

Worked Example

Read the short passage below and follow the steps to make a Character Motivation Inference:

Emilia tugged on her mom's sleeve at the grocery store. "Mom, can we get these cookies, please? They're my favorite!" she said with a big smile. Her mom frowned and replied, "We aren't buying cookies today, Emilia." Emilia crossed her arms, pouted, and stomped her foot. "That's not fair!"

Step-by-step Explanation:

1. Identify clues: Emilia smiles, but later pouts, crosses her arms, and stomps her foot when her mom says "no."
2. Use background knowledge: Kids often become upset when they don't get what they want.
3. Make an inference: Emilia wanted the cookies so badly that she became upset when her mom refused.

Practice: Make Your Own Character Motivation Inferences

Passage 1:

Liam held the door open for his neighbor who was carrying heavy bags. His neighbor smiled and said, "Thank you, Liam! That was so kind of you."

What is Liam's motivation for holding the door open?



Passage 2:

Maria spent hours practicing the piano before the school recital. Everyone clapped loudly when she played her song perfectly.

Why did Maria spend hours practicing?

Passage 3:

Ben's little brother broke his toy car. Instead of getting angry, Ben said, "It's okay. It was an accident," and helped him fix it.

Why does Ben choose to forgive his brother?

Passage 4:

Olivia took the last cookie from the jar even though she knew it was meant for her brother. Later, she apologized and offered to buy him more cookies.

Why does Olivia apologize and offer to buy more cookies?

 Reflection

What did you learn about making Character Motivation Inferences?

What was the hardest part of this worksheet?

What strategies helped you understand Character Motivation Inference?



Predictive Inferences

Interactive Student Worksheet

What are Predictive Inferences?

Predictive inferences are guesses we make about what might happen next based on clues from the text and what we already know. It's like being a detective and solving a mystery before it happens!

Let's Work Through an Example

Here is a short passage:

It looked like it might rain. Dark clouds filled the sky, and the wind was strong. Sophia grabbed her raincoat and headed to the door.

Questions:

1. What clues in the text suggest what might happen next?
2. What background knowledge helps you make this prediction?
3. What prediction can you make about what Sophia is doing and why?

Here's how we solve it step by step:

1. Identify the clues: "Dark clouds filled the sky," "The wind was strong," and "Sophia grabbed her raincoat."
2. Use background knowledge: When the sky is dark and the wind is strong, it often rains.
3. Make a prediction: Sophia is likely going outside but expects it to rain, so she took her raincoat.



Student Practice

Passage 1

The dog barked loudly as the doorbell rang. It wagged its tail and ran to the door.

Questions:

1. What might happen next?
2. Why do you think the dog is acting this way?

Identify four clues from the text:

Use your background knowledge:

What is your prediction?



Passage 2

Maya held the ice cream cone tightly. The bright sun shone overhead, and the ice cream started to drip.

Questions:

1. What might happen next?
2. Why is this happening to the ice cream?

Identify four clues from the text:

Use your background knowledge:

What is your prediction?



Reflection

Write about your experience with Predictive inferences:

What did you learn?

What was the hardest part for you?

What strategies helped you the most?



Emotional State Inferences

Learn how to understand emotions by reading between the lines!

What are Emotional State Inferences?

An emotional state inference is when you figure out how someone is feeling based on what they say or do. It's like being a detective and picking up clues from words, actions, and your own knowledge about emotions!

Worked Example

Read the passage below and look closely to figure out the character's emotional state:

"Sofia frowned as she looked at her report card. She closed the envelope quickly and sighed, avoiding eye contact with her parents."

Questions:

- What clues show Sofia's emotional state?
- How would you describe Sofia's feelings?

Step-by-step process:

1. Identify clues: Sofia frowned, sighed, avoided eye contact.
2. Use what you know: Frowning and avoiding eye contact could mean someone feels embarrassed or upset.
3. Make an inference: Sofia might be feeling sad or disappointed about her grades.

Student Practice

Passage 1

"Amir's best friend said he couldn't come to his birthday party. Amir shrugged and smiled, but later, he stayed in his room and didn't talk a lot."

Clues from the text:

Background knowledge:

Your inference:

Passage 2

"As the teacher handed back their tests, Mia smiled when she saw her grade. She whispered, 'Yay!' under her breath and sat up straighter in her chair."

Clues from the text:

//

Background knowledge:

//

Your inference:

//

Passage 3

"James stared out of the window as raindrops slid down the glass. His soccer uniform sat untouched on the chair, and he didn't respond when his mom called him for dinner."

Clues from the text:

//

Background knowledge:

//

Your inference:

//

Passage 4

"The child clenched her fists and stomped her feet when her brother took the last piece of candy. 'That's not fair!' she shouted."

Clues from the text:

Background knowledge:

Your inference:

★ Reflection

Take a moment to think about what you learned today:

What did you learn about emotional state inferences?

What was the hardest part for you?

What strategy helped you the most?

Pronoun Resolution Inference

Develop your critical reading skills with this engaging worksheet!

What is Pronoun Resolution Inference?

Pronouns, like "he," "she," "it," or "they," are words we use to avoid repeating nouns. Pronoun resolution inference means figuring out who or what a pronoun is referring to by using clues in the sentence and your own knowledge.

Worked Example

"Emma saw a dog on her walk. It barked loudly and ran to greet her."

Comprehension Question:

What does "It" refer to in the passage?

Step 1: Find clues in the passage:

- Emma saw a dog
- It barked loudly
- It ran to greet her

Step 2: Use what you know: dogs bark and greet people.

Step 3: Pronoun resolution: "It" refers to the dog.

 Student Practice

1. "Lucy and her cat were playing. Suddenly, she jumped onto the sofa, knocking over a lamp."

Question:

Who does "she" refer to in the passage?

2. "The teacher put a box full of snacks on the table. Everyone was excited to open it."

Question:

What does "it" refer to in the passage?

3. "Ryan's bike had a flat tire. He decided to fix it before going out."

Question:

What does "it" refer to in the passage?

4. "Jamie and his dog went for a hike. After a while, he stopped to rest under a tree."

Question:

Who does "he" refer to in the passage?

 Reflection

What did you learn?

What was the hardest thing?

What strategies helped you?