

Explaining why things happen

You analyse or account for something by examining:

- *causes*
- *underlying structure*
- *function within a larger system*
- *classifying as a member of a group*
- *situating within a context*

caused

caused
led to
responsible for
influenced
produced
resulted in
created
inspired
generated
hardened into
brought about
contributed to
gave rise to
initiated
inaugurated
is a source of
yielded
unleashed
fostered
spawned
engendered
shaped
facilitated
permitted
allowed
created the conditions for
encouraged
gave scope to

developed into

became
changed into
evolved into
merges as
grew into
unfolded into
sprang up
erupted

triggered

activates
induced
touched off
precipitated
catalysed
kindled
ignited
accelerated
was a catalyst for
helped

makes possible

underlies
lets
assists
allows
permits
creates the conditions for
renders possible
conducive to
enables
forms
sustains
created the conditions for
was responsible for
forms the basis for
makes possible
provides
engenders
susceptible to
is a condition for
is a precondition for
is a prerequisite for
is indispensable for
is a necessary condition for

makes it happen

underlies
ensures
governs
necessitates
entails
necessarily entails
organises
holds together
determines
structures
controls
dominates
shapes
underpins
lies behind
constitutes
imposes
obliges
compels
leaves no choice
implies
guarantees
constrains
limits
antecedent to
ensures
dominates

cause & effect

... is a consequence of
... is a result of
... is an effect of
... is produced by

... is caused by
... influenced by
... is affected by
... is an upshot of
... is an outcome of
... is a repercussion of
... stems from
... arises out of
... springs from
... grew out of
... derives from
... is shaped by

trend

development
tendency
direction

help

enhance
assist
support
benefit/beneficial
contribute to
coordinate
integrate
give expression to
is a vehicle for
orchestrate
gives added impetus to
play a part in
facilitate
foster
encourages
reinforce
trigger
nurture
nourish
provide a context for
enable
fortify
rejuvenate
focus
mobilize
organize
crystallize
fuse

Lack

deficiency

needs

requires
relies on
depends on
demands
cannot function without
restricted to
presupposes
is predicated on
is grounded on
conforms to

utilizes

by means of
uses
employs
deploys
through
via

for the purposes of

in order to

process

response (499)
situation
state of affairs
phenomenon
event
mechanism
structure
role
demands
principle
level
force
network
individual
type
case
category
element
totality
system
structure
boundary
parameter
side-effect

Change

weak

lie dormant
attenuated
mild
not respond to

Change

alter
convert
emerge
respond
reverse
undergo
modify
adapt
develop

Stop

inhibit
interfere with
not alter
abolish
arrest
eliminate
impair
inhibit
negate
resist
eliminate
delay
terminate
cease
give up
cessation

Start

lead to
begin
initiate
induce
underlie
induce

Make happen

facilitate
ensure
undertake
initiate
stimulate
trigger
release
stimulate
induce
introduce
underlying

Keep going

persist
chronically
congenital
inherited

Pass on

transmit
disperse
circulate
conduct

Spread out

proliferate
diffuse
extend
nonspecific
prevalent

How much

elevated
concentrations
gradient
approximately
volume
amount
count
aggregate
saturated
large
high
pronounced
rate
level

How long

duration
phase
burst
period
stage
moment
period
time

How often

frequent
seldom
incidence
recurring

When

eventual
consequent
subsequent
resultant
initial
intermediate
ultimate
permanent
final
last
ongoing

Too much

excess
overabundant
overactive
elevated
massive
overload
acute
widespread
prevalence
prolonged
overdose
exceed
excess
severe

Not enough

minimal
modest
small

Get smaller

decline
decrease
descend
minimise

Get more

proliferate
expand
grow
stretch
swell
spread
accumulate
increase
rise
overproduce

Big

bulk
enormous
accumulate
huge
elevated
widespread
intense
enlargement
peak
comprehensive

Get big quickly

erupt
flare
discharge
excretion

blocked

obstructed
prevented
excluded
obstructed
restricted
repressed
eliminated
closed off
cut short
undermined
undercut
destroyed
wiped out
distorted

Goes with

accompany
associate
correlated
affinity
concurrent,
together with it

Without

absence
lacking

devoid of
lacks
minus
does not have
does not possess
owing to the ab-
sence of

scope

encompasses
includes
ranges over
covers
draws in
incorporates
wide-ranging
extensive
widely
vast
varied

tends to

prone to
leans towards
inclined towards

hides

conceals
obscures
barrier
obstacle

unclear

obscure
invisible
hidden
opaque
concealed

In danger

at risk,
fragile
susceptible
exposed

Pain

alleviate,
debilitating
localized

could not failed to

Fast
rapid
brief

Safe

immune
stable

Make better

improve
help
compensate
boost

Make worse

infect
compromise
impair
excite
feed

Bad

malformation
aggressive
malignant
misshapen
defective
sick

Good

optimal
benign
stable
moderate
robust
immune
mature
optimum
favorable

Not good

acute
brittle
deficient
inflamed

Get better

thrive
improve
cure
relieve
enhance
restore
recover

Get worse

debilitating
collapse
proliferate
deteriorate

Attack

erode
infect
negate
complicate
invade
invasive

Important

important

main
essential
central
crucial
primary
major
key
fundamental
basic
critical
substantive
underlying
core
significant
decisive

prominent

marked
salient
outstanding
notable
dramatic

deep-rooted

dominant
serious
chief
pervasive
enduring
determining
integral
prime

genuine

positive
suitable
neutral
necessary
vital

distinctive

characteristic
unique
indispensable
representative
pre-eminent
predominant
significant

exactly

perfectly
properly
intensely
specifically
precisely
in full
simply

Typical or Special

usually

generally
mainly
ordinarily
in general
in the main
nearly always
for the most part
almost always
invariably
largely
as a rule
in the main
characteristically
invariably

typically

predominantly
mostly
often
regularly
normally
recurrent
the bulk of
often the case
recurring
persistently
typical
normal
natural

almost

to all intents and purposes
virtually
adds up to
approaches
tantamount to
goes a long way towards
relatively
overall

occasionally

unusual
sometimes
randomly
sometimes
fortuitously
arbitrarily
by chance
optional
contingent
arbitrary
by chance
by coincidence
conjuncture
simply happened
almost never
seldom
infrequent
uncharacteristic

exception

abnormal
discrepant
discrepancy
exception
anomaly

rarity
deviant
deformed
atypical
curious
exception
unusual
uncharacteristic
not typical
anomalous
unlikely

of itself

in itself
per se
by its very nature
on its own
for its own sake
inherent in
necessarily
inevitably
essentially
inherently
by its very nature
simply from the fact that
in its own right
integral to
internal to
characteristic of
It is precisely
It is no accident that
It is no coincidence that
of necessity
irreversible
entirely
the very ... itself
... alone
automatic
as such
ipso facto
of the essence of
always
every
all
universally
unequivocally
constant
endemic

Location

necessarily

inevitably
inescapably
ineluctably
had to
must
cannot help but
is dominated by

Location

environment
circumstance
occasion
condition
background
setting
situation
space
place
region
site
atmosphere
climate
milieu
arena
terrain

keep

retain
together
in conjunction with

consists of

constitute
comprise
component

I would really like some feedback on:

- whether these lists are helpful?
- how/when you use them?
- are there too many words?
- would you like more word?

Email me your feedback:

- robin.mccormack@vu.edu.au

Actions by people & things

Researchers

investigate
examine
analyse
find
discover
determine
distinguish
define
display
detect
explain
harvest
recognize
reduce
describe
handle
organize
assess
prove
solve
suggest
weigh
establish
estimate
evaluate
recommend
confirm
illustrate
manipulate
predict

Health workers

apply
assess
assist
attach
care
clean
concern
remove
extract
stop
select
pick
locate
join
isolate
hold
pack
deal with
check
bring
select
collect
stem
alleviate
anticipate
gather
perform
prepare

Biological things

displace
ring
coat
fill
fit
copy
chain
bridge
attract
accommodate
communicate
compete
create
crowd
differentiate
incorporate
transmit
translate
transform
transfer
target
signal
seek
reproduce
repair
interact
influence
gain
evolve
decay
cross
split
contain
acquire
deactivate
mimic
fuse
act
add
allow
block
build
control
enter
force
give
include
kill
mark
move
prevent
produce
provide
restore
supply
attack
confuse
damage
deliver
destroy
divide
match
protect
pump
repeat
replace
strike

transport
multiply
react
release
bind
injure
link
promote
reject
restrict
switch
expose
facilitate
reside
interfere
amplify
cluster
dominate
occupy

Standard

criteria
protocol
technique
standard
treatment
regimen
routine
intervene
diagnose
induce
monitor
regulate

Kind

strain

Goal

focus
goal
output
technique
outcome

Thing

entity
agent
scenario
partner
strategy
predisposition
cycle
factor
phenomenon

Expresses

shows

exhibited
reveals
indicates
discloses
shows up
means
represents
symbolises
embodies
expresses
mirrors
exemplifies
is a product of
emanates from
vehicle for
founded on
reproduces
derived from
transmits
modeled on
follows from
is an outcome of
is driven by
depends on
is grounded in
reflects
shows evidence of
manifests
is rooted in
brings out
bears the trace of
marks
provides a clue to
discloses
encapsulates
is directly related to

is a sign of

is an extension of
is a function of
an expression of
a reflection of
a symptom of
is an index of
is a manifestation of
is a vehicle for
is an indication of
is permeated by
is dominated by
an example of
is emblematic of
a clue to

element

feature
property
attribute
mark
part
characteristic
aspect
dimension
respect
strand
facet
side
sector
area
level
ingredient
component
factor

called

designated as
thought of as
classified as
defined as
usually considered as
interpreted as
referred to as

a kind of

a form of
a sort of
a species of
a version of
a variant of
a type of
a strain of

is an illustration of

is an instance of
is a case of
is an example of

could be called...

has been treated as ...
is usually seen as...
should perhaps be interpreted as ...
might usefully be taken as ...
might be called

expression of

reflection of
symptom of
sign of