Cause and effect

1 Each item a–w can be used to complete just one of the sentences below. Write each letter in the appropriate box.

a) arose from
b) as
c) as a result
d) as a result of
e) because
f) because of
g) because of that
h) brought about
i) caused
j) consequently
k) developed from
l) due to
m) gave rise to
n) led to
o) on account of
p) originated from
q) owing to
r) resulted from
s) resulted in
t) since
u) stemmed from
v) thanks to
w) was caused by

Cause

1 The successful advertising campaign _____ an increase in sales. [h]☐☐☐☐

Effect

2 The increase in sales _____ the successful advertising campaign. ☐☐☐☐☐☐

3 _____ we had a successful advertising campaign, sales increased. ☐☐☐

4 _____ the successful advertising campaign, sales increased. ☐☐☐☐☐☐

5 We had a successful advertising campaign and, _____, sales increased. ☐☐☐

- The verb *caused* can be replaced with *brought about, gave rise to, led to* and *resulted in.*
- The verb *was caused by* can be replaced with *arose from, developed from, originated in, resulted from, stemmed from.* (Do you know the literal meaning of a stem? Check in a dictionary.)
- The linking word *because* can be replaced with *as* and *since.* Note that *as* has a different meaning to its use in comparisons, and that *since* has a different meaning to its use as a time phrase.
- The linking phrase *because of* can be replaced with *as a result of, due to, on account of, owing to, thanks to.* Of these, *because of* is much more common than the others.
- The linking phrase *because of that* can be replaced with *as a result, consequently.*

2 Underline the correct words to make usage notes.

1 There is very little difference in meaning between 'because', 'as' and 'since'. However, **because/as and since** can emphasize the reason more strongly, while **because/as and since** can suggest that the reason is obvious.

2 In sentence 3 in the previous exercise, this word order is also possible: 'Sales increased because we had a successful advertising campaign'. In cases like this where 'because' comes in the middle, it is **equally common/much less common** to replace 'because' with 'as' and 'since'.

3 The phrase **owing to/thanks to** is more formal.

4 The phrase **due to/on account of** often refers to a problem or difficulty. For this reason it is *not* very natural in sentence 4 of the previous exercise because there is no problem (something good happened: a successful advertising campaign).

5 The phrase **due to/owing to** cannot come after the verb 'be'. (Example: The increase in sales was _____ the successful advertising campaign).

6 Study the difference between sentence 3 and 4 in the previous exercise. **Because/Because of** is used before a noun phrase (no verb), while **because/because of** is used before a clause (subject + verb).

7 In sentence 5 in the previous exercise the linking phrases come in the middle of a sentence after the word 'and'. It is **also very common/not so common** for them to come right at the beginning of a sentence, followed by a comma.

3 Look back again at sentence 5 in Exercise 1. What two-letter word is very common to express the same meaning, is more informal, and is written without commas?

We had a successful advertising campaign _____ sales increased.

4 Complete the sentences with a word or phrase from the box.

arose from as as a result due to
led to so

1 Changes in the market _____ the collapse of the company.

2 _____ there were so many changes in the market, the company eventually collapsed.

3 _____ the changes in the market, the company eventually collapsed.

4 The market changed completely _____ the company collapsed.

5 There were a lot of changes in the market, and, _____, the company collapsed.

6 The collapse of the company _____ all the changes in the market.

5 Cover all the other exercises on this page with a piece of paper. Complete each sentence below with one of these prepositions: *about, by, from, in, of, to.*

1 Our cashflow problems last year arose _____ late payments by suppliers.

2 Basically, all our cashflow problems have originated _____ late payments by suppliers.

3 On account _____ late payments by suppliers, we had a lot of cashflow problems last year.

4 Late payments by suppliers have brought _____ all our cashflow problems.

5 All those late payments by suppliers have given rise _____ a lot of cashflow problems.

6 Our cashflow problems are largely caused _____ suppliers paying us late.