

2. Relationships – Tutor Hints

Familiarize yourself with the *Patterns of Organization* tutor hints before studying these.

Identifying *relationships* is a little different than identifying *patterns of organization*. While a *pattern of organization* is the manner in which the author sets up the *major details* to support the *main idea*, a *relationship* is much simpler. It shows the kind of connection that exists between two parts of a reading selection.

A *relationship* can exist between two parts of a reading selection in several different ways:

- between two supporting details
- between the *main idea* and a *supporting detail*
- between a *major* and a *minor detail*
- between two parts of a sentence

Time Order: When two *supporting details* are arranged to relate to each other in time, one detail is shown to happen before, after, or during the other. This creates a relationship of *time* or *time order*.

Illustration: This relationship exists between a main idea and a supporting detail (or between a major and a minor detail). The author clarifies the more general statement by giving a specific example of it. The specific supporting detail demonstrates or dramatizes a more general idea. This is also called *statement and example*.

Definition and Example: This is similar to illustration, but the author gives a general *definition* of a word or phrase. He or she then follows it with a supporting detail that demonstrates one particular instance of the word.

Comparison: In a comparison *pattern of organization*, the author may switch back and forth between two similar ideas as he compares them. A comparison *relationship* therefore involves two ideas and an indication of *similarity* between them.

Contrast: This is similar to comparison, but it involves two ideas and an indication of a *difference* between them.

Cause and Effect: The author presents one idea as though it were the producer or creator of the other. This can happen between the main idea and a supporting detail or between two supporting details.

Spatial: The author relates one object, feature, or location to another in terms of placement in space.

Addition: If the author adds a detail to a list of details, sometimes the new detail has none of the above relationships to its previous details. This, then, is merely a relationship of *addition*. A relationship of addition simply means that the added detail has no special relationship to its fellow details—other than the fact that it supports the same *main idea*.

Practice: As you do each of the following, find the two parts between which the author creates a relationship. Visualize these two situations or ideas side by side in your mind as you are reading (very important). Then determine what *kind* of relationship the author is trying to show. In the first 3 exercises, the two parts are underlined for you.

Addition	Illustration	Contrast	Illustration	Spatial
Time	Definition & Example	Cause & Effect	Comparison	

1. When he talks to me in person, Vincent is usually very polite. However, when we chat on the internet he uses such harsh language.
2. Role conflict is a situation in which the different roles an individual is expected to play conflict with each other. For instance, a working mother experiences tension between the demands of motherhood and the demands of her job.
3. **What is the relationship of sentence 3 to sentence 2:** ¹There have been many fictional captains. ²One is Captain Marvel, a red-suited superhero appearing in comic strips everywhere. ³Another was Captain Nemo, captain of the Nautilus, a submarine in Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*.
4. At the office, Jake had a strange feeling that he had forgotten an important appointment. Meanwhile, Juanita sat alone in a downtown café, looking anxiously at her watch.
5. Famine in Africa cannot be due to overpopulation. There are actually three different contributing factors: drought, inefficient farming techniques, and war.
6. When I get enough sleep before a big test day, I usually do well. Similarly, when I take a nap before going to a late night party, I have more fun.
7. **What is the relationship of sentence 2 to sentence 1:** ¹The weather is really dangerous today. ²Three people were killed by lightning this morning, and the rain caused a mudslide that buried a school.

What is the relationship between the two parts of each sentence:

1. Above his apartment, a train rumbled by.
2. Before the hangman could pull the lever, the convict pronounced a curse on the judge who sentenced him.
3. The heat from a lightning bolt causes the air in the atmosphere to expand rapidly, which subsequently produces the sound of thunder.

Special Example:

¹There are several common sources of fatigue. ²One is physical exertion, which builds up waste products in muscles because the body cannot remove them as quickly as they are produced. ³These wastes cause lethargy, weakness, and aching. ⁴A second common cause of fatigue is illness. ⁵Waste products from the body's battle against micro-organisms get into the bloodstream and make you weak and tired. ⁶You also have less energy when you are ill because the body uses a great deal of energy to fight infection. ⁷A third cause of fatigue is concentrating on a mental task for a long time without break. ⁸The brain normally uses as much as a quarter of the carbohydrates that you eat, and this consumption can rise to 40% during periods of intense focus.

What is the relationship between sentence 2 (major detail) and sentence 1 (main idea)?

What is the relationship between sentence 7 and sentence 4?

Relationships:

1. Contrast
2. definition and example
3. addition
4. time
5. cause and effect
6. comparison
7. illustration

Section 2:

1. spatial
2. time
3. cause and effect

Special exercises:

1. cause and effect
2. addition