

Article: "Is TV a Downer" • Issue: March 9, 2009

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Understanding Relationships

In the article "Is TV a Downer?" a study finds that unhappy people watch more TV. Does this mean that watching TV causes people to be unhappy? Not necessarily. Maybe people who are unhappy for other reasons simply tend to watch more TV. One doesn't necessarily *cause* the other. A true example of cause and effect would be: When it rains heavily, my basement floods. The flooded basement is *caused* by the heavy rain.

Directions: Read each cause-and-effect relationship below. Then, decide if the cause-and-effect relationship is true or false. Circle the correct answer, then explain your reasoning on the lines provided.

1. A study shows that happy people walk outside more than unhappy people. Therefore, it can be assumed that walking outside makes people happy. **TRUE/FALSE**

2. The students in Mrs. Pace's class always forgot to do their homework, so Mrs. Pace decided to give detention to anyone who didn't complete assignments. By the end of the semester, no one was receiving detention. Therefore, Mrs. Pace's solution was a success. **TRUE/FALSE**

3. Every night, Greg does a dance in his front yard. He says that his dance keeps the tigers away. Because he's never seen a tiger in his neighborhood, it can be assumed that his dance works. **TRUE/FALSE**

4. Tess saw cockroaches in her kitchen, so she had her house exterminated. After a month, the roaches were gone. Therefore, it can be assumed that Tess's plan worked. **TRUE/FALSE**

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