

► **Activity 2: Match the halves of sentences/phrases to make meaningful pairs:**

1. This situation has given rise	a) outcome of carelessness.
2. A series of problems may arise	b) leading cause of death in this area.
3. Errors	c) of the Chernobyl disaster?
4. The accident was the inevitable	d) to some difficult problems.
5. What was the cause	e) stem from absent-mindedness.
6. Water contamination is the	f) from the newness of the approach.

Developing Reading (and Writing) Skills



To become a better reader and writer, you need to be able to recognize how the ideas in a text are related to each other. This means that you need to be able to distinguish patterns of organization in a text, at the level of shorter or longer segments of a text, or at the level of a text as a whole.

The major types of organization patterns are listed in the table below. It should be noted that certain patterns may overlap (e.g., sometimes the Old-New may overlap with the Contrast pattern). Additionally, there can be one pattern within another (e.g., within Comparison there can be Cause-Effect).

Major text organization patterns	
General – Specific	<i>e.g., an introduction starts with a general statement and moves on to more specific ones</i>
Specific – General	<i>e.g., a conclusion tends to start with a specific statement and move on to more general ones</i>
Old – New	<i>e.g., what happened before – what happens now</i>
Problem – Solution	
Cause – Effect/Result or Effect/Result – Cause	
Hypothetical – Real	<i>(See the notes below)</i>
Comparison (indicating similarities)	<i>e.g., what is true of X is true of Y</i>
Contrast (indicating differences)	<i>e.g., what is true of X is not true of Y</i>

Hypothetical – Real

Hypothetical: *X seems not to be / is not true; Real: Y is (or is most probably) true*

Example: This phenomenon was initially attributed to the electron spinning about its own axis... It was quickly determined that the electron was not, in fact, spinning about its own axis, but that spin was an intrinsic quantity associated with the electron (Hanson 2008: 32)⁵.

In the **Hypothetical** part, a writer presents a statement made by other people signaling **some doubt about its factuality** (that it is not really a fact). In the **Real** member of the pair, the writer indicates that the opposite of what was mentioned in the Hypothetical part is really the case.

Practice

Look at first four paragraphs of the Further Reading section. In what way is this part organized (i.e., what type of organization pattern has it got)?

5. George W. Hanson (2008) Fundamentals of Nanoelectronics: London, Pearson Education. (p. 32)