

EXPLORE



CD4-21

- 1 **READ** the article about a learning experiment. What did the students learn how to do?

Let Learning Happen

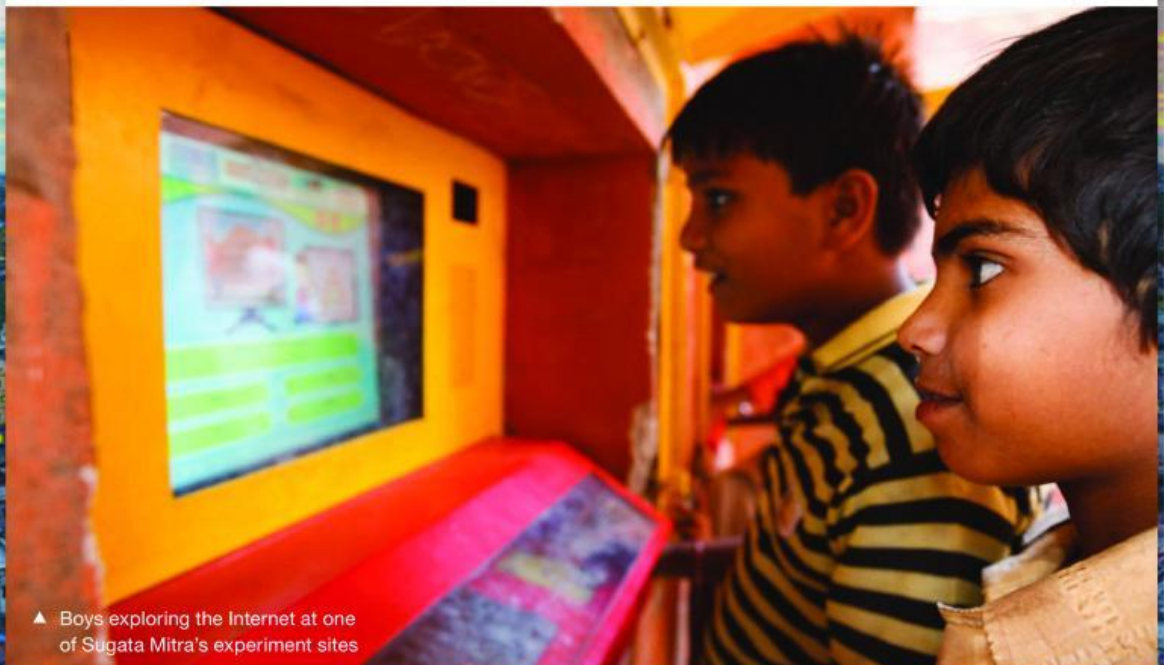
Professor Sugata Mitra wanted to do an experiment. He went to a part of New Delhi, India, where children rarely attended school and had never seen a computer. Mitra set a computer into one of the walls on the street and connected it to the Internet. Then he turned on the computer and left.

Surprisingly, the children learned to use the computer in a few hours. **Despite** their lack of formal education, they figured out how to browse and download information, and they helped each other learn. When Mitra repeated the experiment in India and other countries, the same thing happened. **As a result of** these findings, Mitra became convinced that students will learn what they want to learn.

Mitra did more experiments to see what else groups of students could learn. He found that some figured out how to play music and send e-mails; others learned complex subjects such as biotechnology.¹ All of the students improved their English. They were **so** successful **that** Mitra wanted to provide them with even more opportunities to teach themselves.

The benefit of group learning was an important discovery for Mitra. He realized that students learn more in groups **due to** their constant communication with each other. They do **such** a good job in groups **that** Mitra decided to build SOLEs (self-organized learning environments). These allow groups of students to do Internet research on a wide range of subjects. There is no teacher in the traditional sense. SOLEs reflect Mitra's strongly held view: "It's not about making learning happen. It's about *letting* learning happen."

¹ **biotechnology:** the use of living things, such as cells or bacteria, for industrial purposes



▲ Boys exploring the Internet at one of Sugata Mitra's experiment sites

2 CHECK. Read each statement about the article. Circle **T** for *true* or **F** for *false*.

- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| 1. Sugata Mitra began his learning experiments with wealthy children. | T | F |
| 2. It took the children a few days to learn to use the computer. | T | F |
| 3. Mitra's research shows that students learn best in groups. | T | F |
| 4. Mitra discovered that children learned complex subjects when they wanted to. | T | F |

3 DISCOVER. Complete the exercises to learn about the grammar in this lesson.

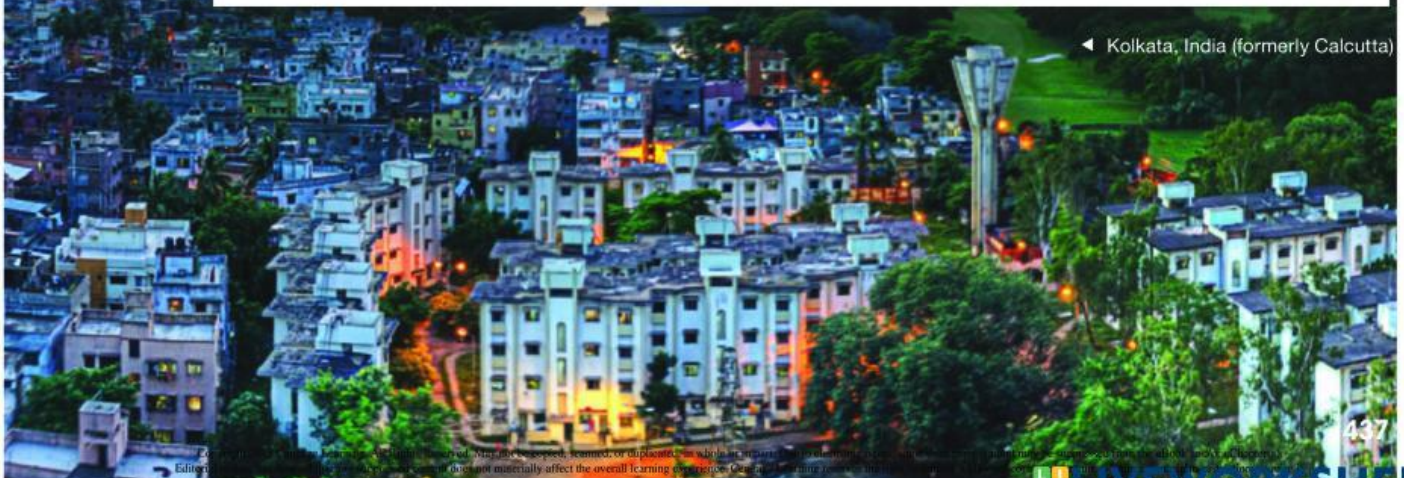
A Find these sentences in the article from exercise 1. Write the missing words.

- _____ their lack of formal education, they figured out how to browse . . .
- _____ these findings, Mitra became convinced that students will learn what they want to learn.
- They were _____ successful _____. Mitra wanted to provide them with even more opportunities to teach themselves.
- He realized that students learn more in groups _____ their constant communication with each other.
- They do _____ a good job in groups _____. Mitra decided to build SOLEs.

B Choose the correct answers based on the sentences you completed in exercise **A**.

- | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| 1. <i>Despite</i> introduces _____. | a. a result | b. a contrast |
| 2. <i>Due to</i> and <i>as a result of</i> introduce _____. | a. a cause | b. a contrast |
| 3. <i>Despite</i> , <i>due to</i> , and <i>as a result of</i> are followed by _____. | a. a noun phrase | b. a noun clause |

◀ Kolkata, India (formerly Calcutta)



LEARN

15.4 Cause and Effect: As a Result of, Because of, Due to

Effect	Cause
	Prepositional Phrase
She will get good grades	as a result of her hard work.
We didn't take the field trip	because of the weather.
The class was canceled	due to a lack of interest.

1. <i>As a result of, because of, and due to</i> are multi-word prepositions. They begin a prepositional phrase that gives the cause of or reason for the event in the rest of the sentence.	The tree fell as a result of the storm. Driving was difficult because of the snow. Class was cancelled due to the bad weather.
2. Remember: A prepositional phrase is a preposition + a noun or noun phrase. When a prepositional phrase is first in a sentence, put a comma after it.	Because of the traffic, we were late. We were late because of the traffic.
3. Be careful! <i>Because of</i> and <i>because</i> are similar in meaning, but they are used with different structures: a. <i>because of</i> + noun/noun phrase b. <i>because</i> + subject + verb	a. We stayed home because of the rain. b. We stayed home because it was raining.
4. In formal writing, <i>due to the fact that</i> + subject + verb is sometimes used instead of <i>due to</i> + noun phrase.	They left town due to the hurricane. They left town due to the fact that a hurricane was approaching.
5. Be careful! <i>As a result of</i> is used to introduce the cause of an event. <i>As a result</i> introduces the effect or result of the cause mentioned in the previous sentence.	As a result of poor sales, the company closed. CauseEffect Sales were poor. As a result , the company closed. CauseEffect

4 Circle all correct words. Sometimes more than one answer may be correct.

- Children learned to use Mitra's computer **because / because of** their curiosity and intelligence.
- Because / Due to the fact that** children organized their own learning, Mitra thinks they can learn without a teacher.
- Mitra wants learning to change **because / because of** he thinks schools are not effective.
- As a result, / Due to** recent research, the teachers have changed their methods.
- Children learn differently **because / because of** different learning styles.
- As a result of / Because** computers, students do not practice writing as much as before.
- Computers are common in schools today. **As a result, / As a result of** students do not practice writing as much as before.
- The test scores went up this year, perhaps **due to / because** the tutoring program.

438 COMBINING IDEAS

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9. Some students are good at group work **due to / due to the fact that** they enjoy interacting with others.
10. Teachers pay attention to different learning styles **due to / due to the fact that** their influence on learning.

5 Complete each sentence with the correct prepositional phrase from the box. Add a comma where necessary.

because of the noise
as a result of their low test scores
due to the class website

~~because of the teachers' strike~~
as a result of the fire
due to the spread of the flu

1. Because of the teachers' strike, classes were cancelled.
2. The students had to sign up for tutoring _____.
3. Some students dislike working in groups _____.
4. _____ more shy students were participating in discussions.
5. _____ the school nurse was working long hours.
6. The school received insurance money _____.

