

# BORDERLESS DEFINED

Newsletter of Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC



## Outage and Disruption (Cont'd)

Newsletter No. 115 issued by Noriko Rogers (July 18, 2022)

I hope this finds you doing well!

After I delivered the last newsletter, my husband brought up an interesting question: "can disruption allude to the effects of outage?"

So, I decided to deep-dive into this possible causal relationship between the two words with the help of [Corpus of Contemporary American English](#).

Here are a few examples demonstrating a direct causal relationship:

- The pipelines and terminals providing gasoline to distribution networks on Long Island were also **disrupted** due to power **outages** and reduced flow capacity, but the situation is improving and will continue to improve over the next 48 hours. ([Source](#))

- Analysts said a series of problems at key California oil facilities sent prices soaring. Fire slowed production at one of the state's biggest refineries in Northern California. A power **outage disrupted** another big refinery, in Torrance. ([Source](#))

- During one CMS principals' meeting, he led morale-building cheers when a power **outage disrupted** a presentation. ([Source](#))

- Storm-related power **outages disrupted** some oil production and refining operations in the Gulf of Mexico. ([Source](#))

The next example below is interesting in that "following" can technically be interpreted as a merely temporal sequence *or* a causal relationship. Contextually, I think we can agree that it is likely the latter, but the relationship is not as direct as, say, the very first example noted above.

- A handwritten notice about power failure is pasted outside a Metro station after Delhi Metro rail services were **disrupted** following power **outage** in New Delhi, India, Tuesday, July 31, 2012. ([Source](#))

Here are examples of no direct causal relationship between the two words.

- With commuter train, subway and bus service **disrupted** and gas stations and terminals suffering power **outages**, the low concentration of gas stations is " a big deal. " ([Source](#))

(NR: Disrupted public transportation service and power outages are stated as the reasons that scarce gas stations constitute a big deal.)

- Heavy rains and strong winds resulted in widespread power outages and disrupted transportation services. ([Source](#))

(NR: Outages and disrupted services are both listed as effects of heavy rains and strong winds.)

In conclusion, I think it is fair to say that disruption can be a consequence of outage, but not necessarily so in every context.

The next Borderless Defined will be in your inbox in the week of August 1, 2022.

Thanks for reading!

Noriko Rogers  
Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

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Borderless Interpreting & Translation, LLC

Plain City, Ohio, USA

+1 (614) 705-5068

URL: [www.borderlessinterpreting.com](http://www.borderlessinterpreting.com)

Contact: [noriko@borderlessinterpreting.com](mailto:noriko@borderlessinterpreting.com)

mailer lite