

# Cause and Effect Conjunctions

The two parts of the sentence are joined together by the conjunction

Cause = an event or reason that makes something happen.

It had rained on Sunday.

Effect = the result of that cause. It shows what happens because of the cause.

The playground was slippery at school.

Cause and effect with a conjunction = explains what happens and why it happens.

The playground was slippery at school because it had rained on Sunday.

How do we use them?

Cause and effect conjunctions can be used at the beginning of a sentence to talk about the sentence before.

They can also be used in the middle of a sentence to join two independent clauses (sentences) together.

Most importantly to remember is that they can be used either way around. Cause and effect or effect and cause.

She was very tired **as a result of** working late

= **As a result of** working late, she was very tired.

Cause → Effect

- She made one big mistake, **as a result**, she lost her job.
- Mary studied hard for the chemistry exam, **therefore** she got an A+.
- It rained heavily, **consequently** the football game was called off.
- It is too late **so that** we cannot go to cinema.
- He didn't complain to the police, **accordingly** the police took no action.

Effect → Cause

- She was very tired **as a result of** working late.
- My father hasn't slept in 4 days **due to** his illness.
- They cannot go to cinema **because** it is too late.
- My success was largely **due to** luck.
- They have had to postpone the meeting, **owing to** the strike.
- The match was cancelled **due to** the bad weather.





## Conjunctions showing cause and effect

We use cause and effect conjunctions to link two sentences and to show their cause and effect relationship:

Cause:

I used full fat milk because I did not have skimmed milk at home.

We couldn't talk to her since she wasn't home.

We can't go to the cinema as it is too late.

I sneezed due to the spices in the air.

I missed my train owing to a traffic hold-up.



A. Connectors showing the cause: because, as, since, for, because of, due to/owing to, on account of, thanks to

### 1. because

This conjunction usually follows the main clause.

For example:

Everybody likes him **because** he is very kind and friendly.



### 2. As and since

They are very similar, but as is less formal than since.

They are used when the reason is well known.

The clauses that start with these words are often **at the beginning of the sentence**.

For example:

- **As** I was very tired, I went to bed early.

- **Since** you are not interested, I won't tell you about it.

### 3. for

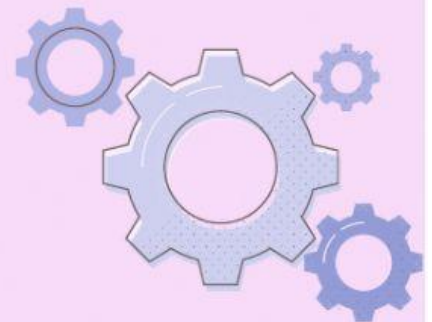
For suggests that the reason is given as an afterthought.

For-clauses never come at the beginning of the sentence.

This conjunction is very formal because it is mainly used in literary texts.

For example:

- We listened eagerly **for** he brought news of our families.





**Connectors followed by a noun, a noun phrase, a pronoun or a gerund**

**Cause:**



## 1. Because of

This conjunction is different from the conjunction because.

**Because of** is **not followed by a sentence**.

For example:

- They have had problems raising cash **because of** the credit crunch.

## 2. due to and owing to

Due to is adjectival (it follows a noun or pronoun), whereas owing to is adverbial (it complements a verb).

For examples:

- The game was cancelled owing to heavy rain.
- The cancellation of the game was due to heavy rain.



## 3. On account of

This conjunction has similar meaning to due to, because of, and owing to.

For example:

- The nurse had to keep the baby in another room on account of my illness.

## 4. Thanks to

It suggests that there is some cause for gratitude, though it can be used sarcastically.

For example:

- Thanks to my fitness coach, I am now much stronger and healthier.

(This sentence indicates that the speaker's fitness coach was responsible for his improvement. It shows that Thanks to has a sincere/positive connotation.)



## Effect:

When we want to focus on the effect, we use conjunctions as: **as a result, so, therefore.**

They are followed by a clause in the following way:

Clause 1 + so/therefore/as a result + clause 2

- We had no kiwis **so** I decided to eat some cherries instead.
- He wanted to buy a new house, **therefore** he started saving up his money.
- I couldn't walk for a year **as a result** of the accident.



## A. Complete the following exercises about Cause and Effect Conjunctions

Choose the cause and effect conjunctions to complete the sentences. Write A, B, C, D, E, F

1. They traveled to India \_\_\_\_\_ they wanted to try traditional Indian food.
2. He doesn't agree with her, \_\_\_\_\_ her absurd ideas.
3. I decided to buy natural yoghurt \_\_\_\_\_ John wants to be healthy.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ we were not invited to their party, we had our own party at home.
5. We were very hungry, \_\_\_\_\_ we ordered a pizza.
6. I couldn't drive for a year of \_\_\_\_\_ the accident.
7. He wanted to find a new job, \_\_\_\_\_ he started looking for one.
8. Prima is lack of confidence ..... he couldn't face the visitors.
9. It was difficult to understand the teacher ..... I was sleepy and dizzy.
10. Tom got a toothache ..... eating sweets too much

- A. as a result  
B. since/as  
C. Since/As  
D. so/therefore  
E. due to/owing to  
F. because



## B. Choose the correct answer by clicking it!

1. What is the cause-effect sentence suitable for the picture below?



Because of he was cheating, we broke up  
Since cheating, we broke up

We broke up so he was cheating  
We broke up because he was cheating

2. Taura: "Where is everyone? Am I late to watch the game?"

Brian: "No, you're not. Because it was raining, ....."

The best EFFECT to complete the dialogue is....

I forgot my umbrella  
I left my raincoat

the game was cancelled  
the weather was bad

3. Bonni: "Are you coming to the game tonight?"

Tiara : "Yes, sure. I'm on my way now"

Bonni: "No, you shouldn't come. The game was canceled....."

The best CAUSE to complete the dialogue is....

due to I forgot my umbrella  
the weather was bad

because it was raining heavily  
because it wasn't raining heavily

4. The flight was cancelled ..... the weather was bad.

so  
because

therefore  
consequently

5. Many species of wildlife are becoming extinct ..... the rainforests are being destroyed

The best conjunctions to complete the sentence is..

because  
because of

therefore  
so







6. The tree fell in the middle of the road because of the strong wind.

The CAUSE in the sentence above is.....

in the middle of the road

the strong wind

of the road

The tree fell

7. Doddy: "Are you happy living in this small village?"

Jojo: "Yes. It is far from the town but I feel less isolated thanks to ....."

we can't get the internet

we can't reach the town

the bad journey

the internet

8. Gerry practiced kicking the ball, so **he made the soccer team this year.**

Is the red part of the sentence the cause or the effect?

Cause

Effect

9. **Ms. Latifa started to talk,** so the students stopped and paid attention.

Is the red part of the sentence the cause or the effect?

Cause

Effect

10. Anita ate too many jelly beans, so **she got a belly ache.**

Is the red part of the sentence the cause or the effect?

Effect

Cause



THANK  
YOU

best of  
LUCK

