

Subordinating Conjunctions (Reason-Result)

What is a subordinating conjunction?

A subordinating conjunction is a word or phrase that links a dependent clause to an independent clause. This word or phrase indicates that a clause has informative value to add to the sentence's main idea, signalling a cause-and-effect relationship or a shift in time and place between the two clauses.

Because, as, since, now that, due to and **because of** are commonly used to connect **causes/reasons** and **results**. We also use **so, so that, so as, in order to** and **in order that** to talk about **purposes** or **goals**. **So** and **so that** are more **common** than **so as** and **in order that**. **So as** is rather **informal**. **In order that** is more **formal** than the others.

- *Are you angry with me **because** I opened the letter?*
- *He decided to go to the conference in Barcelona, **as** he was in Spain anyway.*
- *Jackson coaches his team by telephone, **since** half of them play in Italy, France or Spain.*
- *I don't buy the paper every morning any more **now (that)** our local shop has closed.*
- ***Due to** the heavy rain, the game was cancelled.*
- *I couldn't sleep **because of** the noise.*
- *Our local shop has closed **so** I don't buy the paper every morning any more.*
- *I asked him to move **in order that** I could see the screen better.*

i. **because, because of, due to**

Because is more common than **as** and **since**, both in writing and speaking. When we use **because**, we are focusing on the reason:

*She spoke quietly **because** she didn't want Catherine to hear.*

➤ **Warning:**

We don't use a **because-clause** on its own in formal writing:

*In 1998, the government introduced a new import tax **because** people were importing cars from abroad.*

Because of and **due to** also express the reason for something. They are usually followed by a noun, a **gerund**, or **the fact that + clause**. **Due to** and **owing to** are more formal than **because of**.

*The plane was late **because of** the fog.*

*Flight 341 has been delayed **due to** adverse weather conditions.*



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IELTS

ii. *as and since*

We often use **as** and **since** when we want to focus more on the result than the reason.

As and **since** are more formal than **because**.

[result] *I hope they've decided to come **as** [reason] I wanted to hear about their India trip.*

[result] *They're rather expensive **since** [reason] they're quite hard to find*

- We use **because**, **not as** or **since**, in questions where the speaker proposes a reason:

*Are you feeling unwell **because** you ate too much?*

iii. *to, in order to, so as to*

To, **in order to**, and **so as to** introduce a clause of purpose and are all followed by an infinitive. **To** is the most **informal**.

*I took a language course **to / in order to / so as to** improve my English.*

- For negative purpose we use **so as not to** or **in order not to**.

*She closed the door quietly **so as not to / in order not to** wake the baby.*

- You can also use **so (that) + can/could + verb** or **will/would + verb** to express **purpose**. You can leave out that in **informal** English.

*They moved to Quito **so (that)** they could see their grandchildren more often.*

Using a comma with subordinating conjunctions:

We often use **as** and **since clauses** at the beginning of the sentence. We use a comma after the **as-** or **since-** clause:

***As** everyone already knows each other, there's no need for introductions. We'll get straight into the business of the meeting.*

***Since** everything can be done from home with computers and telephones, there's no need to dress up for work anymore.*

- Also when we use **because of-clause** and **due to** at the beginning of the sentence, we need a comma:

***Due to** the heavy rain, the university is closed.*

- In many sentences, if there is no comma before **as**, then **as** means “in the way that” or “while.” When you insert a comma before **as**, its meaning changes to “because.”

*George cleaned the house **as** his wife had asked him to.*

*George cleaned the house, **as** his wife had asked him to.*

Both of these examples are grammatical. However, they do not mean the same thing, and so it is important to know how the use of a comma changes the meaning of the sentence. So, the first sentence above, which contains **no comma**, can be rephrased as “George cleaned the house in the way that his wife had asked him to.” The second sentence, which contains a **comma**, can be rephrased as “George cleaned the house because his wife had asked him to.”

- When **since** is used to replace the subordinating conjunction **because**, you **MIGHT** want to consider comma use.
- Place a comma before **since** **ONLY** if the preceding clause is negated by the subordinate clause. To help you remember this rule, check to see if the preceding clause contains a **negative verb**. If it does, use a comma.

*She did not apply to her top university pick, **since** the tuition was way out of her price range.*

*He was not able to watch his television show, **since** he lied to his mom about chores.*

- If the preceding clause does **not negate** the new clause, **DO NOT** add a comma. For example:

*I stopped to pick up coffee **since** I ran out of fresh beans at home.*

*I was late to work **since** there was a huge line.*

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