

Cause/Reason clauses

They are introduced by subordinating conjunctions like "because, since, as". These clauses explain why something happens or is done.

Uses:

- "Because, since, as": the difference between them is that "because" puts more emphasis on the reason and usually introduces new information which is not known to the listener/reader. This explains why "because" clauses usually occur in final position (new information is given at the end of the sentence). "As" and "since" are used when the reason is already known to the listener/reader or when it is not the most important part of the sentence. This is why these clauses usually occur in initial position.

I teach a lot of pronunciation because/since/as I think it's important.

Word order: reason clauses can have an initial or final position (i.e. before or after the main clause), but those introduced with "because" tend to have a final position, and those with "as" and "since" often come in initial position:

1) subordinating conjunction + subject + verb ..., / subject + main verb ...:

As/Since the weather was fine, we decided to go for a swim.

2) subject + main verb .../ subordinating conjunction + subject + verb ...:

She couldn't get to work on time because the traffic was heavy.

* **Notice:** there are some **prepositions** that we can use to express reason. They are followed by nouns or object pronouns (not by the -ing form of a verb):

1) because of:

She couldn't get to work on time because of the heavy traffic.

If we want to use a verb, we have to use the expression "because of the fact that", which is followed by a subject and a verb:

She was promoted because of the fact that she works hard.

2) due to (a bit formal):

Due to a heavy snowstorm, all flights to Madrid were cancelled yesterday.

If we want to use a verb, we have to use the expression "due to the fact that", which is followed by a subject and a verb:

She was promoted due to the fact that she works hard.

We can also use the **coordinating conjunction "for"** to indicate reason, but this use is now old-fashioned and is most common in a formal written style. Being a conjunction, it is followed by a subject and a verb:

I decided to stop and have lunch, for I was feeling hungry.