APEX LANGUAGE ACADEMY

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HOW THE GUIDE WORKS

Most sections follow the same steps: read the table, notice the tip and the watch-out box, do the test, then check the answer key.

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01

SECTION 01 OF 13

Giving reasons

Use these to explain why something happens. First check what follows the device: a clause (subject + verb) or a noun phrase.

8 PRACTICE ITEMS

BEFORE A CLAUSE

DEVICE	REGISTER	EXAMPLE
as	NEUTRAL	**As** the shop was closed, we went to another one.
because	NEUTRAL	She missed the bus **because** she left home late.
since	NEUTRAL	**Since** the road was blocked, we took a different route.
seeing as, seeing that	INFORMAL	**Seeing as** you're going to the store, could you buy some milk?
in that	FORMAL	The plan is risky **in that** it depends on a single supplier.
inasmuch as	FORMAL, RARE	The study is useful **inasmuch as** it covers three countries.
for	FORMAL, LITERARY	He took an umbrella, **for** the sky was dark.

TIP

As and since often start a sentence and give a reason the reader already knows. Because is the most direct. "For" joins two clauses after a comma. It is formal and rather literary, and it is rarely used at the start of a sentence to mean because, so avoid it there.

BEFORE A NOUN PHRASE

DEVICE	REGISTER	EXAMPLE
because of	NEUTRAL	The match was canceled **because of** the weather.
due to	NEUTRAL	The delay was **due to** a technical fault.
owing to	FORMAL	**Owing to** heavy snow, the school stayed closed.
on account of	FORMAL	He walked slowly **on account of** his sore knee.
thanks to	NEUTRAL	**Thanks to** her advice, I passed the exam.
as a result of	NEUTRAL	Sales rose **as a result of** the new advertising.

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TIP

To use these before a clause, add "the fact that": "**Owing to the fact that** the road was closed, we waited." "Due to" after the verb be is the classic use ("The delay was due to a fault"). Using it after other verbs is also standard modern usage: "The match was canceled due to heavy snow." "Thanks to" usually introduces a helpful cause, but it can also introduce an unwelcome cause, often ironically: "Thanks to the delay, we missed the start."

COMPARE

because and because of

because + clause	We stayed home **because** it rained.
because of + noun phrase	We stayed home **because of** the rain.

WATCH OUT

✕ because of it was raining	✓ because it was raining, or because of the rain
✕ Because I was ill. (as a complete sentence)	✓ I stayed home because I was ill.
✕ He was late, because the traffic.	✓ He was late because of the traffic.

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PRACTICE

Test yourself: giving reasons

Choose the correct word or phrase for each gap.

1 We stayed inside _____ it was raining.

A because B because of C owing to

2 The match was canceled _____ the heavy snow.

A as B because of C because

3 _____ it was getting late, we ordered a taxi.

A Despite B Due to C As

4 She walked slowly _____ her sore knee.

A since B on account of C because

5 The report is useful _____ it covers every region.

A because of B due to C in that

6 Sam has not replied, _____ he may be away.

A for B owing to C due to

7 Many students were late _____ the train strike.

A owing to B because C seeing as

8 _____ her advice, I passed the test.

A Since B Because C Thanks to

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