

ESL Lesson: "Because" Vs. "Because of"

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆

When do I use just "because" and when do I use "because of"?

Because:

Because (conjunction) + subject + verb

I am late because I was stuck in traffic.

I called a cab for you because it was pouring rain.

*He was **absent** from work today because he felt ill.*

Because of:

Because of (preposition) + noun or noun phrase.

I'm late because of the traffic.

I called you a cab because of the rain.

He was absent from work today because of illness.

Tips:

While it is important to learn when to correctly use "because" and "because of" remember for variety, there are other synonyms to use instead of because:

"As a result of", "due to", "thanks to", "in view of the fact that", "since" and "on account of". These examples are excellent for

sounding a little bit more formal and professional in your daily English, especially for business.

Examples:

1.) Our Company is opening a new plant in the **upcoming** year **as a result of** increased overseas sales.

2.) We bought a new home, **thanks to** our families and friends **contributions**.

3.) **Due to** the global economic **recession**, many private investors are putting their money in gold and **precious metals**.

Questions:

Answer these questions using a variation of "because".

1.) Why did you choose your specific major?

2.) Do you think your English is improving or not? Why?

3.) Are you healthy? If so, why?

4.) What improvements are you making in your life and why?

Quiz

- 1.) _____ she was busy, she didn't call me.
- 2.) _____ the traffic jam, they were late.
- 3.) _____ he had the flu, he couldn't work.
- 4.) _____ the distance, they took a taxi.
- 5.) We decided to visit Mike _____ he was in the hospital.
- 6.) I couldn't **concentrate** _____ the noise.
- 7.) He was hungry _____ she hadn't eaten all day.
- 8.) We rescheduled _____ the storm.
- 9.) We will be laying off many workers _____ the economic recession.
- 10.) Elvis will always be remembered _____ he was the king of **rock**.

Synonym Match:

Match the words from column 1 with the best-suited answer in column 2.

Column 1	Column 2
1.) absent	a.) gift
2.) upcoming	b.) downturn
3.) contribution	c.) focus
4.) recession	d.) genre of music
5.) precious metals	e.) away
6.) concentrate	f.) approaching
7.) rock	g.) gold, silver, platinum

Daily Expressions & Idioms:

1.) **"I'm working on"**: Something you are currently trying to improve or complete in your life.

"I've been working on this side project for several months now." "My girlfriend is working really hard on her diet."

2.) **"Warm up to"**: "Slowly begin to like someone/something."

"I didn't like him at first, but I eventually warmed up to him, and now we get along just great."

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