

Expressing cause and effect

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3412X

LANGUAGE
English

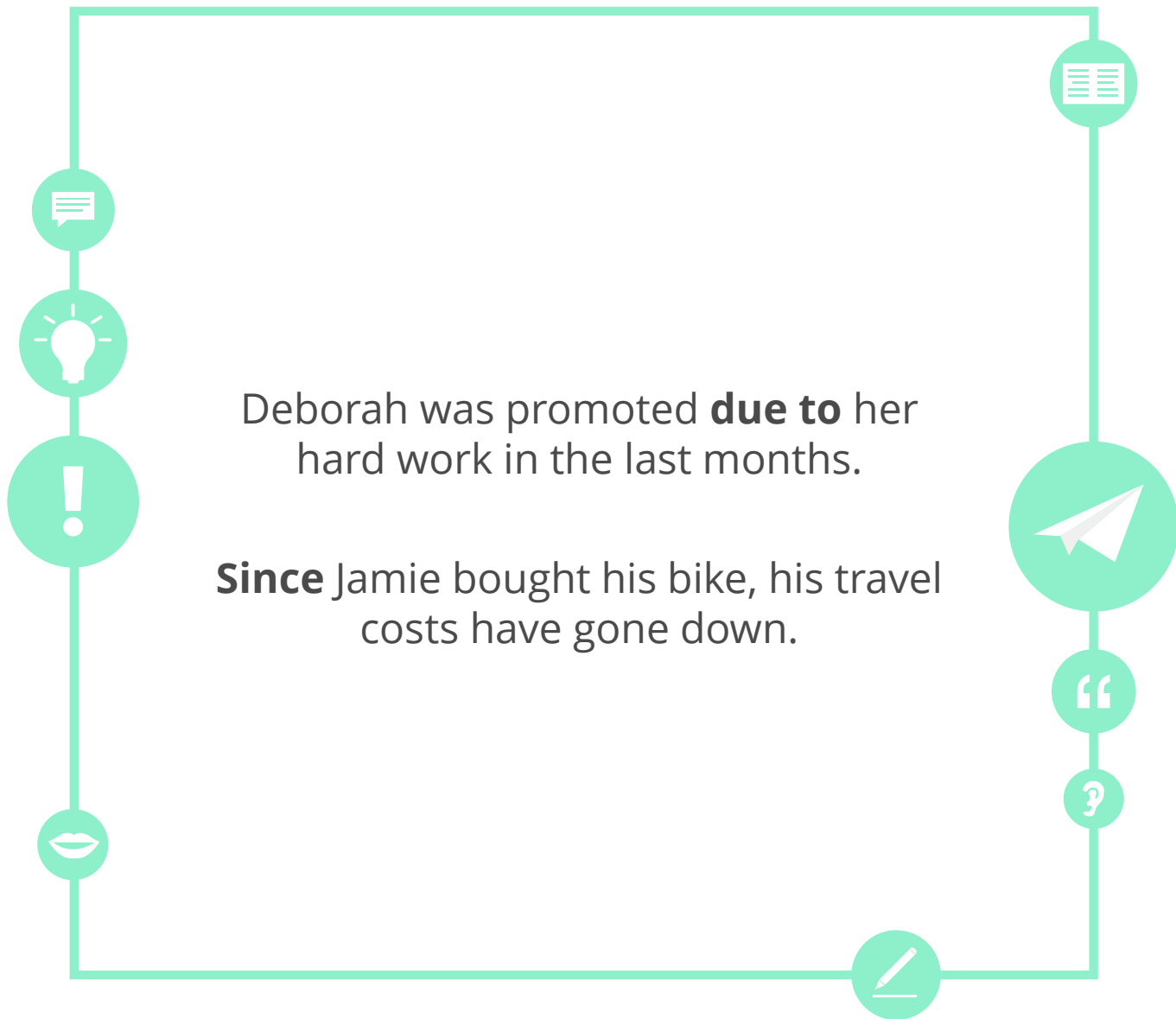




Goals

- Can accurately use more advanced subordinating conjunctions and expressions to express cause.
- Can provide an explanation of the cause and the effect of something in a business context.







Preview

In this lesson, you will use **subordinating conjunctions** to **express cause**.



I left my job **as** I was not enjoying it.



Cause and effect

- We can use **subordinating conjunctions** to talk about **cause** and **effect**.
- **Cause** is a **person** or **thing** that **makes something happen**.
- **Effect** is a **change** that is a **result** of an **action** or **cause**.

| Cause | Effect | Sentence |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| Satish wasn't performing. | Satish got fired. | Satish got fired because he wasn't performing. |
| Sales are declining. | My manager is stressed. | My manager is stressed because sales are declining. |
| Hannah called in sick. | The team meeting was cancelled. | The team meeting was cancelled because Hannah called in sick. |



Describe the pictures

Look at the pictures below and talk about what made them feel that way. What do you think happened?





Expressing cause with *because*, *as* and *since*

- To express **cause**, we can use the following **subordinating conjunctions**:
 - **because**
 - **as**
 - **since**



She loves working from home **because** she doesn't have to commute.

They are having a party **since** it's Claudia's birthday.





Expressing cause with *because*, *as* and *since*

- We can use the following structures:
 - clause + **because/as/since** + clause
 - **Because/as/since** + clause, + clause



As she enjoys tennis, she plays at least twice a week.

Because the traffic was terrible, he was late for work.





Expressing cause with *because*, *as* and *since*

- Here are some more examples.



Sam left an hour early **since** he feared being late for work again.

He was frustrated **because** his colleague was unwilling to negotiate.



As I've now read the report, I can make some suggestions.

Since the guard was asleep, the thieves got away.





Expressing cause with *because*, *as* and *since*

Match each cause with its effect to complete the sentences.

1. _____ since we bought some recently.
2. As it is already 9am, _____.
3. _____, because I need an answer today?
4. Since _____, more people cycle to work.
5. Would you mind speaking a little louder, as _____?

a. the company installed bike racks

b. can somebody please call her

c. don't order any printer ink

d. they can't hear you at the back

e. we should make a start



Complete the sentences

1. I am feeling healthier...
I started exercising more... (since)



Since I started exercising more, I am feeling healthier.

2. The old one isn't working...
You should order a new printer... (as)



3. It is no longer necessary...
I've cancelled the meeting... (because)



4. He hasn't finished the report...
He... (as)



5. Her presentation went well...
... (since)





Discuss

**Imagine you are in these situations.
Think of the causes for each one. Make sure to use all three
subordinating conjunctions to express cause or reason.**

You get fired.

You decide to
cancel a holiday.

Your colleague
hates you.

Your company is
losing money.



Expressing cause with *because of*, *owing to*, *due to* + noun phrase

- To express **cause**, we can also use the following **expressions**:
 - **because of**
 - **owing to**
 - **due to**



Omar received a bonus **because of** his hard work.

Jessica has a well-paid job **due to** her experience in finance.





Expressing cause with *because of*, *owing to*, *due to* + noun phrase

- We use these expressions in the following structures:
 - clause + **because of/owing to/due to** + noun phrase
 - **Because of/owing to/ due to** + noun phrase, + clause



Owing to air traffic control strikes, Ruby's flight was cancelled.

Because of his good answers in the interview, Jacek got the job.





Match the cards to complete each sentence

A

1. Owing to her debt...

2. Our new product is selling well...

3. Due to unexpected circumstances...

4. Many start-ups fail...

5. We have happy employees...

6. Our impressive sales figures are...

B

1. ...owing to our good HR team.

2....we will no longer be able to attend.

3. ... because of the very competitive market.

4. ... due to our generous commissions.

5.because of its exciting new features.

6. ...Toni is careful with her money.



A happy employee



Order of cause and effect in a sentence

- A **subordinate clause** can come **before** or **after** a main clause.
- At the beginning of a sentence, it gives **extra focus on the reason**.
- Remember to add a **comma** when the subordinate clause comes **first**.

| After a main clause | → | Before a main clause |
|---|---|---|
| She will be rich for the rest of her life owing to her family's fortune . | → | Owing to her family's fortune, she will be rich for the rest of her life. |
| Both countries' economies are expected to grow because of the trade deal . | → | Because of the trade deal, both countries' economies are expected to grow. |
| The teacher could not read her homework since Vicky's handwriting was terrible . | → | Since Vicky's handwriting was terrible, the teacher could not read her homework. |



Why are sales decreasing?

Imagine you are Head of Sales at your company and sales have dropped significantly.

Come up with 5 reasons as to why this may be.

The drop in sales is **due to** poor communication between the sales and marketing teams.





Discuss

**What are the causes of these business trends? Are you for or against?
Share your opinions with your teacher.**



Automation of jobs

Increased use of social media

An increase in remote employees



Reading comprehension

Matthew's mother has been in a private hospital for the past twenty years because of a rare disease. Due to how expensive treatment is, he had to work day and night to pay for it. Since he was so tired from working all the time, he often dozed off during his night shifts. Consequently, the manager decided to find someone else. Because he was desperate for money, he made the decision to try and rob a bank. As Matthew is not a professional criminal, he got caught and was arrested at the scene. However, thanks to the judge's generosity, he was given a short sentence and was able to take care of his mother again.





Reading comprehension

After reading the story about Matthew, go back and find all the conjunctions. Then answer the following questions using expressions to explain why.

1. Why was Matthew's mother in the hospital for so long?
2. Why was Matthew working so much?
3. Why did the manager fire Matthew?
4. Why did Matthew decide to commit a crime?
5. Why do you think the judge showed generosity to Matthew?



Write your own story

Now write a short text about your own life, explaining how you have reached your current situation. Each sentence should include a cause and an effect using one of the conjunctions we have learnt.

I was born to be an engineer. **Since** gaining a place at the best engineering school in the country...



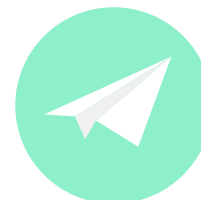


Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise p. 10

1=c, 2=e, 3=b, 4=a, 5=d

Exercise p. 11

2. You should order a new printer **as** the old one isn't working.

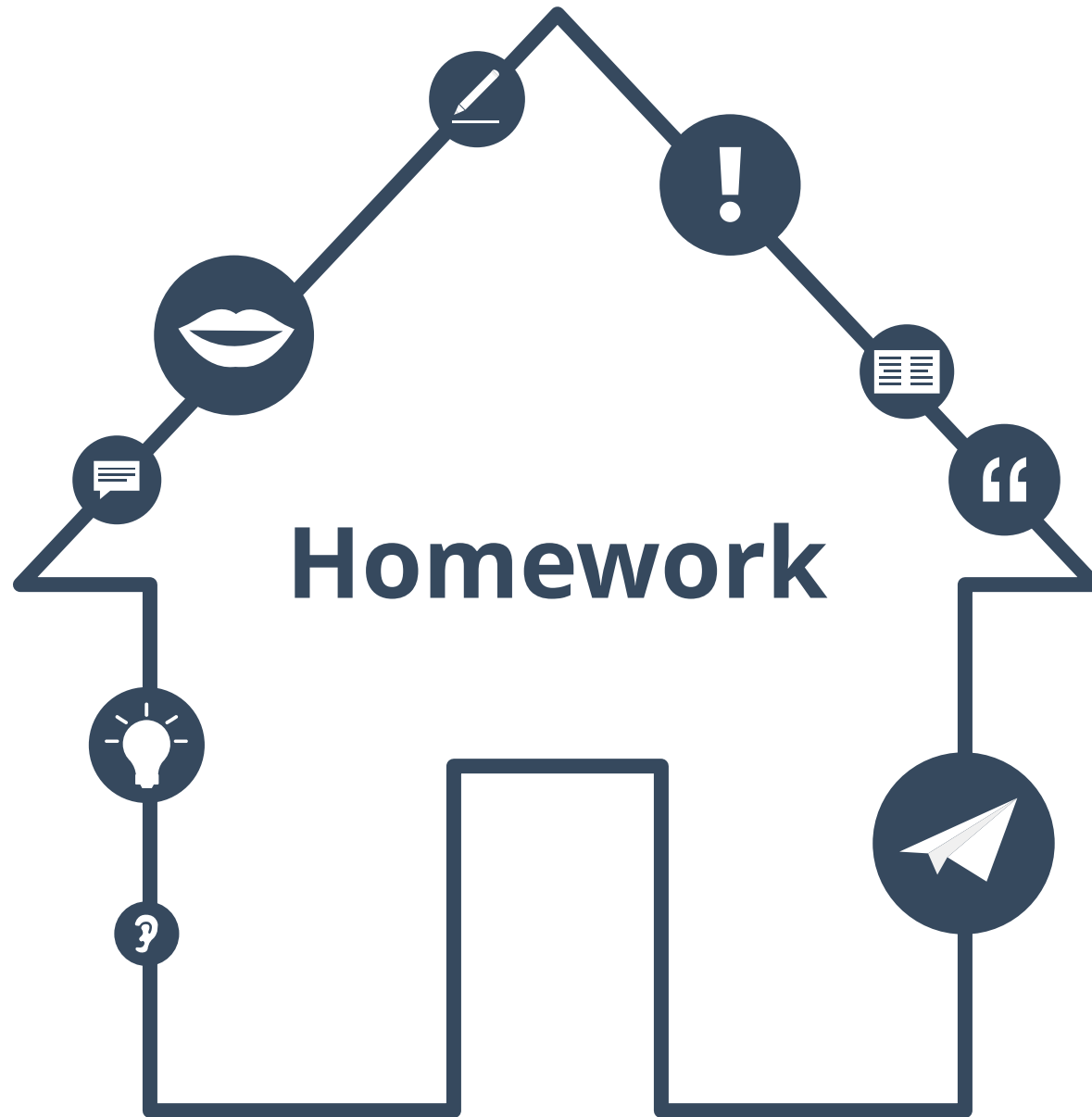
3. I've cancelled the meeting **because** it is no longer necessary.

4. Suggested answer: He hasn't finished the report **as** he isn't feeling well.

5. Suggested answer: **Since** her presentation went well, her boss was happy.

Exercise p. 15

A1=B6, A2=B5, A3=B2, A4=B3, A5=B1, A6=B4





Matching the sentences

Match the appropriate causes with effects.

1. Because a tornado blew the roof off the house,

a. The cake did not come out as expected.

2. Owing to the gravitational pull of the moon,

b. The family had to evacuate for their safety.

3. Due to an increase in greenhouse gases,

c. Global warming is occurring.

4. Since he did not follow the recipe correctly,

d. The oceans have tides.



Write a summary

Write a short summary of a film you have watched recently. Talk about unforgettable events that happened in the film and the reasons that caused them. Don't forget to justify the reasons why you liked it.

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Homework answer key

Exercise p. 26
1b, 2d, 3c, 4a

