

General

Use these words to give reasons (causes), and results (effects). Think of them in 3 types;

Long

therefore/thus/hence
consequently } + effect
as a consequence

Use these words with one main sentence¹. Use a full stop² or semi colon³ to separate them from the sentence before. These words often go at the beginning of the sentence, but can go in other positions too.

Short

so }+ effect
as*/since*/because }+ cause

Use these words to join two main sentences¹. Do not use a full stop to separate them. Use a comma⁴ if you put the linking word at the beginning. 'Since' in fact, is usually in this position.

(* 'as' and 'since' also have a time meaning, and used differently)

Complex

due to/owing to
because of }+ cause

Use these words to join a main sentence¹, and a dependent part⁵. This dependent part is explained in a later unit, but briefly, with these words, it could be a noun^a, or an -ing verb^b. To use a sentence with them, add 'the fact that'⁶.

Again, do not use full stops to separate the two parts. Use a comma if you put the linking word at the beginning.

Mistakes

Take care with the punctuation - don't mix up commas and full stops.
Take care with the grammar - decide on what follows; eg a noun, sentence.
Take care with the meaning - these words are not interchangeable; some are for causes, some for effects.

Progression

As you get better, think about mixing up these types of words. Just remember to follow the rules for each linking word, and have at least one main sentence. Also think about other words/phrases, eg 'as a result' and 'meaning', but check the definition in a dictionary.

Long

The company kept its costs low.² Therefore, it did well¹.

The company kept its costs low;³ consequently, it did well.

The company kept its costs low. It therefore did well.

Short

The company kept its costs low¹ so it did well¹.

The company did well as it kept its costs low¹.

The company did well because it kept its costs low.

Since the company kept its costs low,⁴ it did well.

Complex

Due to low costs^{5a}, the company did well¹.

Due to keeping^{5b} its costs low, the company did well.

Due to the fact that⁶ it kept costs low⁵, the company did well.

Mistakes

He wanted a pay rise therefore he went to see his manager. **O**

He wanted a pay rise. Therefore, he went to see his manager. **II**

She is not working. Because she is ill. **O**

She is not working because she is ill. **II**

They employed more staff because of they had extra work. **O**

They employed more staff because they had extra work. **II**

They employed more staff because of having extra work. **II**

They employed more staff because of extra work. **II**

They won the contract due to they had the lowest estimate. **O**

They won the contract due to having the lowest estimate. **II**

She is not working so she is ill. **O**

She is not working because she is ill. **II**

She is ill. Therefore she is not working. **II**

Progression

2 main sentences

Inflation rose **because** the government could not keep wages down **due to** the power of unions. **Consequently**, interest rates were affected, which was unpopular with home owners.

1 main sentence

dependent part -noun