

Giving reasons: **as, because, etc.; for and with**

A

We can begin a clause with **as, because, seeing that, seeing as, or since** to give a *reason* for a particular situation:

- As** it was getting late, I decided I should go home.
- We must be near the beach, **because** I can hear the waves.
- Since** he was going to be away on his birthday, we celebrated before he left.
- We could go and visit Natalia, **seeing that** we have to drive past her house anyway.

Note that –

- ☆ it is common and acceptable for **because** to begin a sentence, as in:
  - Because** everything looked different, I had no idea where to go.
- ☆ to give reasons in spoken English, we most often use **because**. **So** is also commonly used to express a similar meaning (see also Unit 81). Compare:
  - Because** my mother's ill, I won't be able to come. ('because' introduces the reason) *and*
  - My mother's ill, so* I won't be able to come. ('so' introduces the result.)
- ☆ when it means 'because', **since** is rather formal. It is uncommon in conversation, but is frequently used in this way in academic writing:
  - I had to go outside **because** I was feeling awful. ('since' is unlikely in an informal context)
  - The results of this analysis can be easily compared to future observations **since** satellite coverage will remain continuous. (more likely than 'because' in this formal context.)
- ☆ **seeing that** is used in informal English. Some people also use **seeing as** in informal speech:
  - Joel just had to apologise, **seeing that / as** he knew he'd made a mistake.

B

In formal or literary written English we can also introduce a reason in a clause beginning **for, in that, or, less commonly, inasmuch as**. **For** is a formal alternative to 'because'; **in that** and **inasmuch as** introduce clauses which clarify what has been said by adding detail:

- We must begin planning now, **for** the future may bring unexpected changes. (*not* For the future ..., we must ...)
- The film is unusual **in that** it features only four actors. (*or In that* ..., the film is ...)
- Clara and I have quite an easy life, **inasmuch as** neither of us has to work too hard but we earn quite a lot of money. (*or Inasmuch as* ..., Clara and I ...)

C

The prepositions **because of, due to, and owing to** can also be used before a noun or noun phrase to give a reason for something:

- We were delayed **because of** an accident.
- She was unable to run **owing to / due to** a leg injury. (= because of a leg injury.)
- We have less money to spend **owing to / due to** budget cuts. (= because of budget cuts.)

Note that we don't use **because** alone before a noun or noun phrase:

- We were delayed **because** there was an accident. (*not* ... because an accident.)

In current English we usually avoid **owing to** directly after a form of **be**:

- The company's success *is* **due to** the new director. (*not* ... is owing to ...)

However, **owing to** is used after **be + a degree adverb** such as **entirely, largely, mainly, partly**:

- The low election turnout *was* **partly due to / owing to** the bad weather.

We can often use either **it was due to ... that** or **it was owing to ... that**:

- It was* **owing to** his encouragement *that* she applied for the job. (*or It was due to* ... *that*)

D

We can use **for** and **with** followed by a noun phrase to give a reason (compare B above):

- She was looking all the better **for** her stay in hospital. (= 'as a result of')
- With** so many people ill, the meeting was cancelled. (= 'as a result of there being')

# Exercises

80.1 Complete the sentences by putting an item from (i) and one from (ii), in the correct order. **A**

(i)

- 1 ~~passengers were given a full refund~~
- 2 Andrea agreed to book tickets for us all
- 3 I'll buy you lunch
- 4 I've given up dairy products
- 5 we were recommended to buy the textbook second-hand
- 6 the guest lecturer was late
- 7 we get on so well
- 8 you should never walk under a ladder

(ii)

- a it's your birthday
- b it was her idea to go to the theatre
- c Dr Gomez spoke about his research instead
- d a new copy would be very expensive
- e I suggested we all go on holiday together
- f ~~the train was delayed for more than an hour~~
- g it's supposed to be unlucky
- h I'm trying to lose weight

1 + f **Since** the train was delayed for more than an hour, passengers were given a full refund.

2 ..... **as** .....

3 **Seeing as** .....

4 **Because** .....

5 ..... **since** .....

6 **As** .....

7 ..... **seeing that** .....

8 ..... **because** .....

80.2 Complete the sentences using **due to** or **owing to** with one of the phrases from the box. If both **due to** and **owing to** are possible, write both. **C**

lack of interest    ~~stress at work~~    heavy cloud    its central location    human error

1 She claims her illness is entirely **due to / owing to stress at work**.

2 The cancellation of the competition is .....

3 The popularity of the restaurant is largely .....

4 It's likely that the mistake was .....

5 We couldn't see last night's eclipse of the moon .....

Now complete these sentences using **because** or **because of** + a phrase from the box. **C**

his age    his mobile was switched off    local opposition  
the bright sunlight    there was a fly in it

6 I had to drive in dark glasses .....

7 I couldn't speak to Jacob .....

8 The council had to withdraw its plan to close the swimming pool .....

9 My grandfather couldn't do a sponsored parachute jump .....

10 He sent the soup back .....

80.3 Rewrite these sentences using **for** or **with** instead of **because (of)**. Give alternatives where possible. **D**

1 I got a job as a street sweeper because my money was running out.

*With my money running out, I got a job as a street sweeper. / I got a job as a street sweeper, with my money running out.*

2 I couldn't hear what Isabella was saying because of the noise.

3 Olivia went to stay with her aunt because her father was in hospital.

4 I felt a lot fitter because of all the exercise I was doing.

5 Because the train drivers are on strike tomorrow, I don't think I'll go to town after all.