

# Expressing the reason

We can use several different grammatical structures to show the reason for something. For example, we can express that idea using the coordinating conjunction *for*.

I was tired after my journey, *for* I had been driving non-stop for twelve hours.

Notes

Although '*for*' is grammatically correct in the sentence given above, it is rarely used. We are more likely to express the same idea using the subordinating conjunctions *because*, *since* or *as*.

I was tired after my journey *because* I had been driving non-stop for twelve hours.

OR

*As / since* I had been driving non-stop for twelve hours, I was tired after my journey.

More examples are given below.

They postponed the meeting *because* the chairman was ill.

*As / since* the chairman was ill, they postponed the meeting.

Strictly speaking, *for* can be used to express the same idea; however, it is mainly used in very formal contexts.

They postponed the meeting *for* the chairman was ill.

Notes

Clauses introduced by *as* and *since* usually come at the beginning of the sentence. *Because*-clauses tend to go after the main clause.

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The same idea can also be expressed using the prepositions due to, because of and as a result of.

The meeting was postponed due to / because of the chairman's illness.

## Exercise

Complete the following sentences using an appropriate conjunction or preposition.

1. .... I was ill for several months, I lost my job.

Because

Because of

Due to

2. It is raining again, ..... we will have to cancel the picnic.

so

as

since

3. I decided to take a break, ..... I was feeling tired.

for

because

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therefore

4. We were late ..... it rained.

because

because of

due to

5. The match was cancelled ..... bad weather.

Please select 2 correct answers

because

due to

because of

## Answers

1. Because I was ill for several months, I lost my job.
2. It is raining again, so we will have to cancel the picnic.
3. I decided to take a break, because I was feeling tired.
4. We were late because it rained.

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5. The match was cancelled due to / because of bad weather.