

Cause & effect statements

HSK 4

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

由于 (due to / owing to)

■ An asserted cause still needs evidence

- Traffic delayed your arrival.
- 由于堵车, 我迟到了。 – 由于 introduces the traffic as the stated reason for lateness.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 由于 (due to / owing to). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

由于堵车, 我迟到了。

yóu yú dǔ chē wǒ chí dào le

Word guide: 由于 – due to; 堵车 – traffic jam; 我 – I; 迟到 – late.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 由于堵车, 我迟到了。: 由于 introduces the traffic as the stated reason for lateness.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 因为 can often introduce the same cause.
- Formal register does not prove the causal explanation correct or exclusive.

■ Use the distinction

- 由于 introduces the traffic as the stated reason for lateness.
- 因为 can often introduce the same cause. Formal register does not prove the causal explanation correct or exclusive.

■ Try it with help closed

Traffic delayed your arrival. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 由于堵车，我迟到了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 因为 can often introduce the same cause.
- Formal register does not prove the causal explanation correct or exclusive.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

既然 ... , 就 ... (since / now that)

■ Build advice on an accepted premise

- A friend has arrived and you invite them to sit.
- 既然来了，就坐吧。 – The arrival is treated as the accepted basis for the invitation.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 既然 ... , 就 ... (since / now that). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

既然你来了，就坐吧。

jì rán nǐ lái le jiù zuò ba

Word guide: 既然 – since; 你 – you; 来 – come; 就 – then; 坐 – sit.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 既然来了，就坐吧。: The arrival is treated as the accepted basis for the invitation.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- 因为 can introduce known as well as new causes.
- 既然 focuses on accepting a premise for a conclusion rather than a universal known-versus-new word division.

■ Use the distinction

- The arrival is treated as the accepted basis for the invitation.
- 因为 can introduce known as well as new causes. 既然 focuses on accepting a premise for a conclusion rather than a universal known-versus-new word division.

■ Try it with help closed

A friend has arrived and you invite them to sit. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 既然来了，就坐吧。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 因为 can introduce known as well as new causes.
- 既然 focuses on accepting a premise for a conclusion rather than a universal known-versus-new word division.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.

因此 (therefore / for this reason)

■ A conclusion may be advice rather than a reported event

- A long journey is a reason to leave earlier.
- 路很远，因此要早点走。 – 因此 introduces the recommended consequence of the distance.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 因此 (therefore / for this reason). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

路很远，因此要早点走。

lù hěn yuǎn yīn cǐ yào zǎo diǎn zǒu

Word guide: 路 – road; 很 – very; 远 – far; 因此 – therefore; 要 – need; 早 – early; 点 – a bit; 走 – leave.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 路很远，因此要早点走。: 因此 introduces the recommended consequence of the distance.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The consequence can be a decision, prediction or report.
- The sentence does not assert that an early departure already happened.

■ Use the distinction

- 因此 introduces the recommended consequence of the distance.
- The consequence can be a decision, prediction or report. The sentence does not assert that an early departure already happened.

■ Try it with help closed

A long journey is a reason to leave earlier. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson's pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 路很远，因此要早点走。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The consequence can be a decision, prediction or report.
- The sentence does not assert that an early departure already happened.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.