

Cause & effect statements

HSK 5

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.

之所以 ... 是因为 ... (effect before cause)

■ Put the effect before its proposed reason

- A report explains why a project succeeded.
- 项目之所以成功，是因为大家合作。 – The successful result comes first and its proposed cause follows 是因为。

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 之所以 ... 是因为 ... (effect before cause). 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.

他之所以成功，是因为努力。

tā zhī suǒ yǐ chéng gōng shì yīn wèi nǔ lì

Word guide: 他 – he; 之所以 – the reason ... is; 成功 – succeed; 是因为 – is because; 努力 – hard work.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 项目之所以成功，是因为大家合作。: The successful result comes first and its proposed cause follows 是因为。
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- The grammar organises an explanation.
- The causal claim still needs evidence; the construction does not prove it.

■ Use the distinction

- The successful result comes first and its proposed cause follows 是因为。
- The grammar organises an explanation. The causal claim still needs evidence; the construction does not prove it.

■ Try it with help closed

A report explains why a project succeeded. 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: 项目之所以成功，是因为大家合作。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- The grammar organises an explanation.
- The causal claim still needs evidence; the construction does not prove it.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.