

Cause & effect statements

HSK 6

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.

因为 ... 而 ... (because ..., thereby ...)

■ A cause explains one outcome

- A nervous speaker accidentally says the wrong word.
- 他因为紧张而说错了话。 – 紧张 names the reason; 说错了话 names the resulting action.

A cause explains one outcome

SITUATION

A nervous speaker accidentally says the wrong word.

SPEAKER MEANING

紧张 names the reason; 说错了话 names the resulting action.

CHECK THE LIMIT

Keep the cause between 因为 and 而.

■ Locate the pattern in real examples

- 因为 ... 而 ... (because ..., thereby ...): 比赛因为下雨而取消。; 他因为紧张而说错了话。
- Read the whole clause before choosing a translation. The examples show the pattern in use; the context below determines what the speaker claims.

■ Follow the speaker

比赛因为下雨而取消了。

bǐ sài yīn wèi xià yǔ ér qǔ xiāo le

Word guide: 比赛 – the match; 因为 – because; 下雨 – rain; 而 – thereby; 取消 – cancel.

- In the opening situation: 他因为紧张而说错了话。
- 紧张 names the reason; 说错了话 names the resulting action.

■ Check the limit of the explanation

- Keep the cause between 因为 and 而.
- This explains the claimed cause, rather than proving it. The subject can precede the whole structure, avoiding a needless second subject.

■ Repair the form before interpreting it

- The form 他因为而紧张说错了话 needs repair here. Write 他因为紧张而说错了话 instead; keep the word or frame in its demonstrated order.
- Form and meaning are separate checks. After the repair, explain the sentence in its situation rather than treating a familiar translation as a universal rule.

■ Keep the distinction

- 紧张 names the reason; 说错了话 names the resulting action. Check the relevant speaker, time or group in the surrounding context.
- Keep the cause between 因为 and 而. This explains the claimed cause, rather than proving it. The subject can precede the whole structure, avoiding a needless second subject.

■ Try it with help closed

A nervous speaker accidentally says the wrong word. 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: 他因为紧张而说错了话。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Keep the cause between 因为 and 而.
- This explains the claimed cause, rather than proving it. The subject can precede the whole structure, avoiding a needless second subject.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.