Cause/Effect Statements

HSK 4 Grammar

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

由于 (due to / owing to)

Flight delayed

- An airport announcement explains why your flight is late.
- **由于天气原因，航班推迟起飞。** – "Due to the weather, the flight's departure has been delayed."

由于 + cause，result

- **由于** = "due to, owing to": a formal "because", common in notices, news and writing.
- It can take a noun phrase or a clause: 由于时间关系, 由于他生病了.

由于他生病了，会议取消了。
yóu yú tā shēng bìng le huì yì qǔ xiāo le
Word guide: 由于 – due to; 他 – he; 生病 – ill; 会议 – the meeting; 取消 – cancelled.

由于: owing to (formal)



With 所以 or 因此

- **由于工作忙，所以他很少回家。** – "Because work is busy, he rarely goes home."
- **由于准备充分，因此比赛很顺利。** – "Because we prepared well, the competition went smoothly."

由于工作忙，所以他很少回家。
yóu yú gōng zuò máng suǒ yǐ tā hěn shǎo huí jiā
Word guide: 由于 – owing to; 工作 – work; 忙 – busy; 所以 – so; 他 – he; 很少 – rarely; 回家 – goes home.

Formal, and cause first

- 由于 introduces the cause before the result; "the result, 由于 cause" is less natural than with 因为.
- In everyday conversation, 因为 sounds more natural than 由于.

由于 versus 因为

- 因为 can follow the result: 我没去，因为下雨了.
- 由于 normally starts the sentence and can pair with 因此: 由于 …，因此 ….

我没去，因为下雨了。
wǒ méi qù yīn wèi xià yǔ le
Word guide: 我 – I; 没 – didn't; 去 – go; 因为 – because; 下雨 – it rained.

Recap

- **由于 + cause，(所以 / 因此) result** = due to / owing to (formal).
- Cause first; 因为 is the everyday word and can follow the result.

Practise this pattern step by step.

既然 … ，就 … (since / now that)

Since you're here

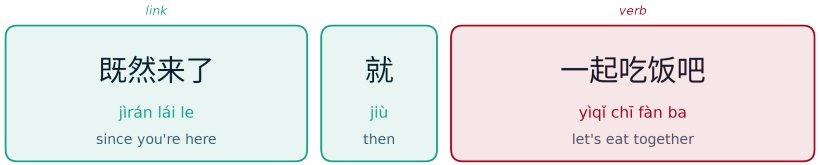
- Your friend drops by just as you are cooking dinner.
- **既然来了，就一起吃饭吧！** – "Since you're here, stay and eat with us!"

既然 A，就 B = since A (is a fact), B

- **既然** introduces a known fact; the second clause draws a conclusion or suggestion with 就.
- 就 goes after the subject: 既然你不舒服，你就回家休息吧.

既然你不舒服，就回家休息吧。
jì rán nǐ bù shū fu jiù huí jiā xiū xi ba
Word guide: 既然 – since; 你 – you; 不 – not; 舒服 – well; 就 – then; 回家 – go home; 休息 – rest.

既然 …，就 …: since (we know)



Advice and decisions

- **既然你已经决定了，我就不多说了。** – “Since you’ve already decided, I won’t say any more.”
- The second part is often a suggestion (吧), a decision or a question (为什么还 …?).

既然你已经决定了，我就不多说了。
jì rán nǐ yǐ jīng jué dìng le wǒ jiù bù duō shuō le
Word guide: 既然 – since; 你 – you; 已经 – already; 决定 – decided; 我 – I; 就 – then; 不 – not; 多 – more; 说 – say.

A fact both people know

- 既然 needs a fact that is already true and known; for a possibility use 如果: 如果你来，… .
- Pair it with 就 (or 那 / 还), not 所以: 既然下雨了，我们就别去了.

既然 versus 因为

- 因为 explains why something happened: 因为下雨，比赛取消了.
- 既然 uses a fact to suggest what to do now: 既然下雨了，我们就在家看电影吧.

既然下雨了，我们就在家看电影吧。
jì rán xià yǔ le wǒ men jiù zài jiā kàn diàn yǐng ba
Word guide: 既然 – since; 下雨 – it’s raining; 我们 – we; 就 – then; 在 – at; 家 – home; 看 – watch; 电影 – a film.

Recap

- **既然 A，(Subject) 就 B** = since A (a known fact), then B (suggestion or decision).
- Not for possibilities (如果); pairs with 就, not 所以.

Practise this pattern step by step.

因此 (therefore / for this reason)

Writing up results

- You are writing a report on why sales of a new drink went up.
- **新产品价格低，因此很受欢迎。** – “The new product is cheap, and is therefore very popular.”

Cause，因此 + result

- **因此** = “therefore, for this reason”: a formal “so”, common in writing.
- It starts the result clause or follows its subject: 因此他决定 … / 他因此决定 ….

他每天练习，因此进步很快。
tā měi tiān liàn xí yīn cǐ jìn bù hěn kuài

Word guide: 他 – he; 每天 – every day; 练习 – practises; 因此 – therefore; 进步 – improves; 很 – very; 快 – fast.

因此: therefore (written)



After a full sentence too

- **这次考试很重要。因此，大家要认真复习。** – “This exam is important. Therefore, everyone must revise carefully.”
- It can start a new sentence, followed by a comma.

因此，大家要认真复习。
yīn cǐ dà jiā yào rèn zhēn fù xí
Word guide: 因此 – therefore; 大家 – everyone; 要 – must; 认真 – carefully; 复习 – revise.

Do not pair with 因为

- Use 由于 …，因此 … or 因为 …，所以 …; 因为 …，因此 … is avoided in careful writing.
- 因此 is formal; in chat, 所以 is more natural.

因此 versus 所以 and 于是

- 所以 is the everyday “so”: 下雨了，所以我没去.
- 于是 tells the next action in a story; 因此 gives a logical consequence.

下雨了，所以我没去。
xià yǔ le suǒ yǐ wǒ méi qù
Word guide: 下雨 – it rained; 所以 – so; 我 – I; 没 – didn’t; 去 – go.

Recap

- **Cause，因此 + result** = therefore (formal); it may start a new sentence.
- Pairs with 由于; everyday speech uses 所以.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

■ 由于 (due to / owing to)

1901.1 Complete (notice): “Due to the bad weather, the event is cancelled.” …… 天气不好，活动取消。

1901.2 Which word can naturally follow the result? 我没去，_____ 下雨了。

- A. 由于
- B. 于是
- C. 因此
- D. 因为

1901.3 Build: “Because we prepared well, the competition went smoothly.”

Arrange all chunks: 因此 / 比赛很顺利。/ 由于准备充分 / ，

1901.4 由于 sounds more formal than 因为.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1901.5 An airport announcement explains why your flight is late. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 既然 … ，就 … (since / now that)

1902.1 Complete: “Since you’re ill, go home and rest.” …… 你病了，就回家休息吧。

1902.2 Which sentence is correct?

- A. 既然下雨了，所以我们别去了。
- B. 既然下雨了，我们就别去了。
- C. 我们就别去了，既然所以下雨。
- D. 既然明天可能下雨，就我们别去。

1902.3 Build: “Since you’ve decided, I won’t say any more.”

Arrange all chunks: 我就 / ， / 既然你已经决定了 / 不多说了。

1902.4 既然 is the right word for a situation that may or may not happen.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1902.5 Your friend drops by just as you are cooking dinner. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

■ 因此 (therefore / for this reason)

1903.1 Complete (written): “He practises daily and therefore improves fast.” 他每天练习，…… 进步很快。

1903.2 Which pair suits careful writing?

- A. 由于 …，因此 …
- B. 如果 …，因此 …
- C. 既然 …，因此 …
- D. 因为 …，因此 …

1903.3 Build: “Therefore, everyone must revise carefully.”

Arrange all chunks: 大家要 / 因此 / ， / 认真复习。

1903.4 In casual conversation, 所以 sounds more natural than 因此.

True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1903.5 You are writing a report on why sales of a new drink went up. 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.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

Answers and explanations

■ 由于 (due to / owing to)

1901.1 由于

由于 + cause, then the result.

1901.2 D. 因为

因为 can follow the result; 由于 normally starts the sentence.

1901.3 由于准备充分，因此比赛很顺利。

由于 …，因此 ….

1901.4 True.

It suits notices, news and writing.

1901.5 One possible response: 由于天气原因，航班推迟起飞。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 由于 introduces the cause before the result; "the result, 由于 cause" is less natural than with 因为.
- In everyday conversation, 因为 sounds more natural than 由于.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 既然 … ，就 … (since / now that)

1902.1 既然

既然 + known fact, 就 + suggestion.

1902.2 B. 既然下雨了，我们就别去了。

既然下雨了，我们就别去了 is right: 既然 pairs with 就 after the subject. 所以 does not pair with 既然, and 就 cannot come before 我们.

1902.3 既然你已经决定了，我就不多说了。

既然 + fact, subject + 就 + decision.

1902.4 False.

Possibilities take 如果; 既然 needs a known fact.

1902.5 One possible response: 既然来了，就一起吃饭吧！

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- 既然 needs a fact that is already true and known; for a possibility use 如果: 如果你来，… .
- Pair it with 就 (or 那 / 还), not 所以: 既然下雨了，我们就别去了.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

This is supported productive practice. Compare meaning and structure; your answer need not copy the model. A partner or teacher must hear the spoken response to comment on pronunciation.

■ 因此 (therefore / for this reason)

1903.1 因此

因此 gives the logical consequence.

1903.2 A. 由于 …，因此 …

由于 … 因此 … is the standard written pair.

1903.3 因此，大家要认真复习。

因此 can open a new sentence.

1903.4 True.

True. 因此 is formal and written; in casual conversation 所以 is the natural word for "so, therefore".

1903.5 One possible response: 新产品价格低，因此很受欢迎。

Check meaning and form:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Use 由于 …，因此 … or 因为 …，所以 …; 因为 …，因此 … is avoided in careful writing.
- 因此 is formal; in chat, 所以 is more natural.
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