Cause/Effect Statements

HSK 5 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.

之所以 ... 是因为 ... (effect before cause)

The real reason

- A journalist asks a famous chef why her restaurant has stayed popular for thirty years.
- **我们之所以受欢迎，是因为一直用最新鲜的材料。** – "The reason we're popular is that we've always used the freshest ingredients."

之所以 + result，是因为 + cause

- **之所以 A，是因为 B** = "the reason (why) A is that B": the known result comes first, the cause second.
- 之所以 follows the subject: 他之所以迟到，是因为 ….

他之所以迟到，是因为堵车。
tā zhī suǒ yǐ chí dào shì yīn wèi dǔ chē
Word guide: 他 – he; 之所以 – the reason why; 迟到 – was late; 是 – is; 因为 – because; 堵车 – traffic jam.



Explaining in essays and speeches

- **我之所以选择这个专业，是因为我对医学很感兴趣。** – "I chose this major because I'm very interested in medicine."
- The pattern sounds considered and formal; it suits explanations and written arguments.

我之所以选择这个专业，是因为感兴趣。
wǒ zhī suǒ yǐ xuǎn zé zhè ge zhuān yè shì yīn wèi gǎn xìng qù
Word guide: 我 – I; 之所以 – the reason; 选择 – chose; 这个 – this; 专业 – major; 是 – is; 因为 – because; 感兴趣 – interested.

Result first, cause second

- Do not reverse it: 之所以 introduces the result, 是因为 the cause. Not 之所以下雨，是因为比赛取消了.
- Keep 是 before 因为 in the second clause: 是因为, not just 因为 in careful writing.

Versus 因为 ... 所以 ...

- 因为 A，所以 B: cause first, then result – the everyday order.
- 之所以 B，是因为 A: result first, as something already known, then the explanation.

因为堵车，所以他迟到了。
yīn wèi dǔ chē suǒ yǐ tā chí dào le
Word guide: 因为 – because; 堵车 – traffic jam; 所以 – so; 他 – he; 迟到 – was late.

Recap

- **(Subject) 之所以 + result，是因为 + cause** = the reason … is that ….
- Result first; keep 是因为; formal and explanatory.

Practise this pattern step by step.

Practice without the models

之所以 ... 是因为 ... (effect before cause)

1701.1 Complete: "The reason I'm tired is that I slept badly." 我之所以很累，……因为昨晚没睡好。

1701.2 Which sentence is logically correct?

- A. 之所以下雨，是因为比赛取消了。
- B. 之所以比赛取消，所以下雨。
- C. 比赛之所以下雨，是因为取消了。
- D. 比赛之所以取消，是因为下雨了。

1701.3 Build: "I chose this major because I'm interested in medicine."
Arrange all chunks: 我之所以选择这个专业 / 我对医学很感兴趣。/ 是因为 / ，

1701.4 因为 … 所以 … puts the cause first; 之所以 … 是因为 … puts the result first. True or false? Explain or repair the statement.

1701.5 A journalist asks a famous chef why her restaurant has stayed popular for thirty years. 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

■ 之所以 … 是因为 … (effect before cause)

1701.1 是

之所以 …，是因为 ….

1701.2 D. 比赛之所以取消，是因为下雨了。

之所以 + result (cancelled), 是因为 + cause (rain).

1701.3 我之所以选择这个专业，是因为我对医学很感兴趣。

Result, then 是因为 + cause.

1701.4 True.

That is the key difference.

1701.5 One possible response: 我们之所以受欢迎，是因为一直用最新鲜的材料。

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.
- Do not reverse it: 之所以 introduces the result, 是因为 the cause. Not 之所以下雨，是因为比赛取消了.
- Keep 是 before 因为 in the second clause: 是因为, not just 因为 in careful writing.
- 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.