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**Linking words** help us to connect ideas and sentences. We can use linking words to give examples, add and order information, summarize, give a reason or result, or to contrast ideas.

Sometimes we need to link two ideas in a way that shows a cause and effect relationship between them.

Look at the following example:

- *I was late to work today **because** I missed the bus.*

The first part of the sentence, ‘*I was late to work today*’, tells us what happened. The second part of the sentence, ‘*because I missed the bus*’, tells us why it happened.

The linking word ‘*because*’ in this sentence shows cause and effect. The cause is WHY it happens. The effect is WHAT happens.

## **Because, since, as, and so**

Let’s look more closely at some cause and effect linking words. Some common cause and effect linking words are ‘*because*’, ‘*since*’, ‘*as*’ and ‘*so*’.

‘*Because*’, ‘*since*’, and ‘*as*’ show **cause**.

- *It game was cancelled **because** it was raining.*

‘*Because it was raining*’ is the cause. It is why the game was cancelled.

Here are a few more examples.

- *I took notes for you in class today **since** you were absent.*
- **As** *Monday is a holiday, we have decided to leave town for the weekend.*

'So', on the other hand, shows **effect**.

- *It was raining, **so** the game was cancelled.*

This is almost the same as the earlier sentence, but we use the word 'so' to talk about the effect: *the game was cancelled*.

## Consequently and therefore

Some other words we can use to talk about effect are 'therefore' and 'consequently'.

- *Jesse's new girlfriend was allergic to cats. **Therefore**, he had to give his beloved cat Fluffy away.*
- *He stole money from the company, and **consequently**, he was fired.*

Note: 'Therefore' and 'consequently' either start a new sentence, or they are preceded by the words 'and' or 'so'.

'So', on the other hand, cannot start a new sentence and does not need any words before it.

## Cause and effect words that are followed by nouns

'Because of', 'due to', and 'owing to' are linking words that also show cause, but they *must be followed by a noun* instead of a verb phrase.

- *The game was cancelled **because of the rain**.*

Here, we use a noun, *the rain*, after the linking words 'because of'. 'Due to' and 'owing to' are used the same way.

- *We lost the contract **due to** Edgar's careless **mistakes**.*
- *The business went bankrupt **owing to a combination** of bad luck and bad decisions.*

## 'So... that' and 'Such... that'

We can also use 'so + an adjective + that' to create cause and effect:

- *I was **so** tired **that** I fell asleep on the bus.*

In this sentence, *'I was tired'* is the cause and *'I fell asleep on the bus'* is the effect.

We can also use a quantifier and a noun instead of an adjective to create a sentence in the same way:

- *Bill Gates earns **so** much money **that** he donates most of it to charity.*
- *He ate **so** many cookies **that** he threw up.*

We can also use *'such + an adjective + a noun + that'* to create cause and effect.

- *She is **such** a beautiful woman **that** everyone she meets falls in love with her.*

*'She is a beautiful woman'* is the cause in this sentence; *'everyone she meets falls in love with her'* is the effect.

- *This is **such** a good recipe **that** my grandma refuses to share it.*

*'This is a good recipe'* is the cause; *'my grandma refuses to share it'* is the effect.

Here's a good video from Anglo-Link explaining the types and uses of linking words of cause and effect:

See also:

[Coordinating Conjunctions](#)

[Conjunctions of Contrast](#)