

BECAUSE VS. SINCE VS. AS

The conjunctions “**because**,” “**since**,” and “**as**” tend to be used interchangeably in regular speech, but they have slightly different meanings. Whether you are writing to demonstrate a logical flow, to examine the causes of an event, or to analyze a legal case, knowing the differences between these terms can provide greater clarity to your writing.

While this resource only covers the conjunction forms of these words, “since” can also be a preposition, and “as” can also be an adverb or preposition.

HOW TO USE “BECAUSE,” “SINCE,” AND “AS”

1. **“Because”** connects a **result** and its **cause or reason**.
 - a. Expresses a greater degree of certainty than “**since**” or “**as**” in this connection.
 - b. Use “**because**” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the **cause or reason** rather than the **result**.

Examples:

- i. Caleb drank a warm cup of green tea **because** he was extremely fatigued after writing a paper for the entire day.
- ii. **Because** it was a beautiful autumn afternoon, the professor went for a walk.

2. **“Since,”** when used as a conjunction, can connect a **result** and its **cause or reason** and can also **show that something is related to time passing**.

- a. **Discussing causation:** Use “**since**” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the **result** rather than its **cause or reason**.
- b. **Time-related effect:** Use 'since' to indicate that time has passed.

Examples:

- i. **Causation:** The student received an excellent grade on her presentation **since** she was well-prepared.
- ii. **Time:** The cat has been hiding around the house **since** the family brought home the new dog.

3. “As,” when used as a conjunction, can either connect a result and its cause or reason or can show that something is occurring at that moment in time.
- a. **Discussing causation:** Use “as” if the goal of the sentence is to focus on the result rather than its cause or reason.
 - b. **Time-related effect:** Use “as” if two related events are occurring at the same time.

Examples:

- i. **Causation:** The students were not able to gain any usable data from their lab as they did not properly follow the protocol.
- ii. **Time:** Kathryn arrived at the café just as they closed.

NOTE: “Since” and “as” can be used interchangeably when examining causation but differ in their usages when explaining time-related events.

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