

## Because and Since

**Mistakes:** Because it was raining.  
**Because** I'm late, **so** I'll take a taxi.  
Since he has a problem.

(Note: A *clause* has a subject and verb.)

**Exercise 1:** Draw a box around the clauses. (Hint: In total, there are 10 clauses.)

1. I bought an airline ticket **because** I want to visit my uncle.
2. We took our dog to the vet **since** it was sick.
3. **Since** Mari didn't speak English, she spoke in French to the shopkeeper.
4. The mailman was late today **because** it was snowing so hard.
5. **Because** the air conditioner broke, all classes were canceled.

**Exercise 2:** Choose the correct answer for the rule.

### Rule: since and because

According to the sentences in Exercise 1, when we use *because* or *since* in a sentence, we have \_\_\_\_.

- a) one clause                      b) two clauses

**Exercise 3:** Read the sentences. Choose the correct grammar explanation for each.

1. I went to the library because I needed a book for my report.
  - a) This sentence is grammatically correct because it includes 2 clauses with "because."
  - b) This sentence is grammatically incorrect because it has only 1 clause with "because."
2. Because I was very lucky.
  - a) This sentence is grammatically correct because it includes 2 clauses with "because."
  - b) This sentence is grammatically incorrect because it has only 1 clause with "because."
3. Since my country had elections, yesterday was a holiday.
  - a) This sentence is grammatically correct because it includes 2 clauses with "since."
  - b) This sentence is grammatically incorrect because it has only 1 clause with "since."
4. The workers look happy today. Because they got their pay-checks.
  - a) These sentences are grammatically correct because they include 2 clauses with "because."
  - b) The 1<sup>st</sup> sentence is grammatically correct, but the 2<sup>nd</sup> one is incorrect because it has only 1 clause with "because."
5. The workers look happy today. This is because they got their pay-checks.
  - a) The 1st sentence is grammatically correct, and the 2nd one is correct because it has 2 clauses with "because."
  - b) The 1st sentence is grammatically correct, but the 2nd one is incorrect because it has only 1 clause with "because".

6. My house needs a new roof since it is 25 years old.
- This sentence is grammatically correct because it includes 2 clauses with “since.”
  - This sentence is grammatically incorrect because it has only 1 clause with “since.”
7. Because the child was scared. She started crying.
- These sentences are grammatically correct because they include 2 clauses with “because.”
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> sentence is incorrect because it has only 1 clause with “because.”. The 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence is grammatically correct.

**Exercise 4:** Choose the correct answer for the definition.

**Definition: Clauses**

**Definition:** A clause that starts with the word *because* or *since* is called \_\_\_\_ .

- a **dependent clause** because it needs a second clause in the sentence. (In other words, it cannot stand alone.)
- an **independent clause** because it can be a sentence without a second clause. (In other words, it can stand alone.)

**Exercise 5:** Choose the sentences that are grammatically correct.

- Because** he is tired, **so** he wants to go home.
  - Because** he is tired, ~~so~~ he wants to go home.
- Since** Tom learned to play the piano, **and** he plans to perform during our party.
  - Since** Tom learned to play the piano, ~~and~~ he plans to perform during our party.

**Exercise 6:** Choose the correct answer for the rule.

**Rule: Because, Since, and, but, so**

**When we use *Because* or *Since* at the start of a sentence, we usually \_\_\_\_\_ the words “so” and “and” in the sentence:**

- use
- do not use

**Exercise 7**

- Write **OK** if the sentences are grammatically correct. (Hint: In total, 3 sentences are OK.)
- Correct the mistakes if they are grammatically incorrect.

OK 1. Ken didn't have many friends in elementary school because he was shy.

\_\_\_\_ 2. My parents bought me a new computer. *because* ~~Because~~ I passed my math class.

- \_\_\_ 3. We moved to the city because my father found a great job there.
- \_\_\_ 4. Dr. Wilson came to my house. Since my brother was sick.
- \_\_\_ 5. Because we won the game, so we will go to a restaurant to celebrate.
- \_\_\_ 6. Since they took a lot of pictures of their vacation. They have many nice memories.
- \_\_\_ 7. Because she was a teenager, and she wanted to have her own bedroom.
- \_\_\_ 8. I started to cry at the end of the book. Because the ending was very sad.
- \_\_\_ 9. Since the movie was boring, Sara fell asleep.

### Exercise 8

- 1) Write a paragraph with at least 5 sentences on one of the topics below.
- 2) In at least 3 of the sentences, use “*because*” or “*since*.”

- Topic choices:**
- 1) Tell about what you did last weekend and why you did it.
  - 2) Tell about your plans for next weekend and why you will do them.