

Conjunctions (because & so)

What are the conjunctions because and so?

Both *because* and *so* are conjunctions which comment on actions. They appear quite similar at first. However, *because* provides the reason for an action, and *so* gives the result of or response to an action. For example, look at the following sentences:

I went to America *because* I wanted to study English.

Because I wanted to study English, I went to America.

I wanted to study English, *so* I went to America.

What is the sentence structure?

Because is a subordinating conjunction, and should follow the structures below:

main clause (S+V+O/C) | *because* | subordinate clause (S+V+O/C)

Because | subordinate clause (S+V+O/C) | , | main clause (S+V+O/C)

I didn't buy the dress | *because* | it cost too much.

Because | the dress cost too much | , | I didn't buy it.

So is a coordinating conjunction, and shows the result of an action. Here is the structure:

main clause (S+V+O/C) | , | *so* | coordinate clause (S+V+O/C)

I didn't sleep well last night | , | *so* | I felt very tired today.

How are because and so used?

As has been mentioned, *because* and *so* connect two ideas. *Because* provides a reason for the action stated in the main clause. We can also say that *because + subordinate clause* explains a cause for the action. Moreover, it often introduces information the listener may not know. For example:

I stayed home *because* it snowed heavily. = The heavy snow caused me to stay home.

On the other hand, *so* informs the listener or reader of the result or response to the main action. It may simply state the effect of the main clause, as in the following example:

I got an MBA last spring, *so* I found a better job this fall.

However, *so + coordinate clause* may also show the logical continuation of two actions. For example:

Bill bought the peanut butter, *so* Kelly bought the jelly for their sandwiches.
Samantha went to the store for snacks, *so* Alan tidied up before the guests came for dinner.

In both examples, the coordinate clauses follow the main clauses to complete an act.

Is there additional information on *because* and *so*?

No, nothing else on either *because* or *so*.

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