

Causes and Effects In English

Vocabulary and Grammar

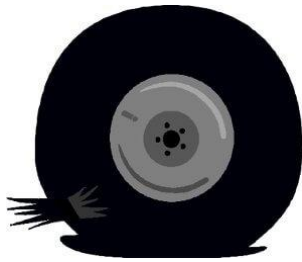
When we talk about a situation that makes another situation happen, we talk about **cause and effect**.

In English, we use certain expressions such as **because**, **due to**, **since** (**homonyme du "since" vu avec le Present Perfect**), and **as** to talk about **causes and effects**.

Cause

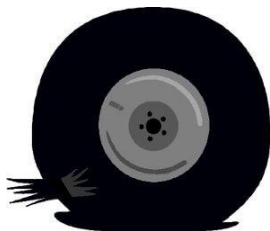
A cause (**noun**) is a person or thing that makes something happen.

- The **cause** of the accident was a flat tire (= **pneu crevé**).



A cause (**verb**) is an action that makes something happen

- The flat tire **caused** the car to wreck.



Effect

An effect (noun) is a change that is a result of an action or cause

- The snowstorm had an **effect** on his mood (= **humeur**).



Affect

When **effect** is used as a verb, it is usually spelled with an **a** = affect.

To affect (verb) is to produce an effect; to cause a change in something.

- The snowstorm **affected** his mood.



Talking about causes and effects in English

To express **cause and effect** in English, we use certain signal words and signal phrases.
(Remember: a phrase = an expression)

- due to
- because of
- owing to
- thanks to
- as a consequence of
- as a result of
- because
- since
- as
- for

Followed (=suivis) by a noun

These **cause/effect phrases** are followed by a noun or noun phrase.

- due to
- because of
- owing to
- as a consequence of
- as a result of
- thanks to

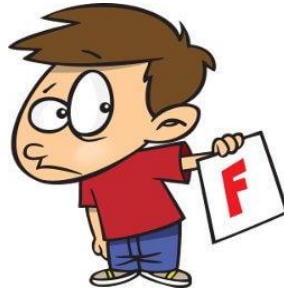
In the following examples, the **noun or noun phrase** will be underlined.

The **cause** always comes after the **cause/effect signal word or phrase**.

Signal word/phrase + Cause, + Effect

or **Effect + Signal word/phrase + Cause**

Examples:



1. **Due to John's laziness, he did not pass the English test.**

- **Signal phrase: Due to**
- **Cause: John's laziness** (= paresse)
- **Effect: He did not pass the test** (to pass = réussir un test)

2. **He failed the test **because of** his bad study habits.**

- **Signal phrase: Because of**
- **Cause: His bad study habits** (habits = habitudes)
- **Effect: He failed the test**



3. As a result of the rain, we canceled the picnic.

- Signal phrase: As a result of
- Cause: The rain
- Effect: We canceled the picnic (to cancel = annuler)



4. David could not attend owing to his illness.

- Signal phrase: Owing to
- Cause: David's illness
- Effect: David could not attend (to attend = participer à)



5. He was fired as a consequence of tardiness (being late).

- Signal phrase: As a consequence of

- **Cause: Tardiness**
- **Effect: He was fired** (to be fired = être renvoyé)

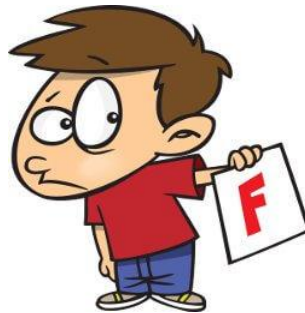
Followed by a verb

- because
- since (homonyme de celui vu avec le Present Perfect)
- as
- for (homonyme de celui vu avec le Present Perfect)

In these examples, the **subject + verb or verb phrase** is underlined (= soulignés).
The **cause** comes after the **cause/effect signal word or phrase**.

Signal word/phrase + Cause, + Effect
or
Effect + Signal word/phrase + Cause

Examples:



1. **Because** John was lazy, he did not pass the English test.

- **Signal word: Because**
- **Cause: John was lazy**
- **Effect: He did not pass the test**

2. He failed the test **because** he did not study well.

- **Signal word: Because**
- **Cause: He did not study well**
- **Effect: He failed the test**



3. The picnic was canceled **since** the rain was coming.

- **Signal word: Since** (= puisque)
- **Cause: The rain was coming**
- **Effect: The picnic was canceled**



4. David could not attend **for** he was ill.

- **Signal word: For** (= puisque, plus littéraire que "since")
- **Cause: David was ill**
- **Effect: David could not attend**



5. **As** he arrived late to work, he will be fired.

- **Signal word: As** (= comme)
- **Cause: He arrived late to work**
- **Effect: He will be fired**