

TRANSITION WORDS: CAUSE & EFFECT

CAUSE / REASON

BECAUSE & SINCE: **BECAUSE** and **SINCE** are used to show a **CAUSE** or **REASON**.

We went to the beach **because** it was sunny.

We stayed home **since** it was raining.

****Be careful:** **Since** can also be used to show **time**, for example: I have lived in Miami **since** 2006.

We sometimes use **AS** to show a cause or reason. **AS** is used in formal writing more often than in speech.

We went to the beach **as** it was sunny.

As it was raining, I stayed home and watched a movie.

DUE TO & BECAUSE OF: These transition words are followed by a **noun clause** or '**the fact that**'.

We were late **due to** the traffic. We were late **due to the fact that** there was a lot of traffic.

We were late **because of** the traffic. We were late **because of the fact that** there was a lot of traffic.

How to use Transition Words and Commas: If the transition word comes at the beginning of the sentence, we use a comma; otherwise, we do not.

Comma:

Because it was sunny, we went to the beach.

Since it was raining, we stayed home.

As I was late, I didn't eat breakfast.

Due to the traffic, we were late.

Because of the traffic, we were late.

No Comma:

We went to the beach **because** it was sunny.

We stayed home **since** it was raining.

I didn't eat breakfast **as** I was late.

We were late **due to** the traffic.

We were late **because of** the traffic.

EFFECT / RESULT

SO & THEREFORE: **SO** and **THEREFORE** are used to show an **EFFECT** or **RESULT**.

It was raining, **so** we stayed home.

I woke up late; **therefore**, I didn't eat breakfast.

I have a headache. **Therefore**, I will stay home tonight.

We sometimes use **THUS & HENCE** to show an **EFFECT** or **REASON**. **THUS & HENCE** are used in formal writing more often than in speech.

It was sunny; **hence**, we went to the beach.

There was a lot of traffic; **thus**, we were late.

AS A RESULT OF: This transitional phrase can be followed by a **noun phrase** or an **independent clause**.

We were late **as a result of** the traffic. (noun clause)

We were late **as a result of driving** through traffic. (noun clause)

We were late; **as a result**, we missed the beginning of the movie. (independent clause)

TRANSITION WORDS: CAUSE & EFFECT
Exercises and Practice

Transition Words and Phrases: Combine the two sentences using an appropriate transition word or phrase. Do not repeat transition words or phrases! Each one may only be used once!

1. We stayed inside. There was a tropical storm.

2. Tracy failed the exam. She didn't study.

3. Dave had a car accident. He was sending a text.

4. Mike is a good volleyball player. He wins many games.

5. My flight was delayed. I didn't make it home in time for the wedding.
