

Sentence Structure: Conjunctions

Learning about sentence structure helps us to:

- **connect** case notes in writing
- **understand** complex sentences more quickly in reading
- pick out **inferences** in Part C
- **speak** more fluently

The important things we have to understand are:

- 1) **the relationship between ideas**
- 2) **what clauses are**
- 3) **the difference between verb clauses and noun clauses**

Note the different clauses in the sentences below (and the function):

- **I love chocolate** because **it is sweet**. (cause)
- **Despite having years of experience**, **most English people don't understand grammar**. (contrast)
- **The man** **who** lives in the pink house **shouted at my son yesterday**. (relative clause)
- **Being a single mother of 3 children**, **Mrs Smith finds it hard to cope financially**. (participle clause)

Causes

conjunction	verb or noun	example
because due to the fact that	verb clause	Paul is tired today because he <u>was kept awake</u> by his son. Boris Johnson is in trouble at the moment due to the fact that he had parties during the pandemic lockdown.

<p>due to owing to because of as a result of</p>	<p><u>noun clause</u> - often with gerunds (the noun form of a verb + verb+ ing)</p>	<p>Paul is tired due to <u>his son waking up early</u>.</p> <p>Paul is tired due to (him) <u>being kept awake by his son</u>.</p> <p>hungry/no breakfast</p> <p>I am hungry because I didn't have breakfast today.</p> <p>I'm hungry because I didn't have my breakfast</p> <p>I am very hungry due to having no breakfast.</p> <p>I am hungry now as a result of not having breakfast</p> <p>Due to the café being closed, I didn't have breakfast.</p> <p>Due to being closed, the café went out of business.</p>
<p>following</p> <p>be careful - just means 'after'</p>	<p>noun clause</p>	<p>Mr Smith went to the hospital, following an accident with a hammer.</p> <p>Following lunch, I went back to work.</p>

be - changes to 'being' in a noun clause

In noun clause with adjective: Paul missed his appointment, as a result of *being* unwell.

In noun clause with passive voice: Paul couldn't walk for 6 months, as a result of *being hit* by a bus.

There is/There are

- I moved to Manchester **because there are** green spaces here. (green spaces)

Exercise

1. I broke my wrist. I had surgery.
2. There was a knocking sound. John answered the door.
3. The music was too loud. Sarah turned it down.
4. Harold was arrested. He spent the night in jail.
5. All of my socks had holes in. I went to the clothes shop.

Answers

1. I broke my wrist. I had surgery.
 - I had surgery due to breaking my wrist.
 - I had surgery because I broke my wrist.
 - As a result of breaking my wrist I had surgery.
2. There was a knocking sound. John answered the door.
 - John answered the door due to the knocking sound.
 - John answered the door because there was a knocking sound.
 - John answered the door following a knocking sound.
3. The music was too loud. Sarah turned it down.
 - As a result of the music being too loud, Sarah turned it down.
 - Sarah turned the music down because it was too loud.
 - Sarah turned down the music due to it being too loud.
4. Harold was arrested. He spent the night in jail.
 - As a result of being arrested Harold spent the night in jail.
 - Harold spent the night in jail because he was arrested.
 - Harold spent the night in jail due to being arrested.
5. All of my socks had holes in. I went to the clothes shop.
 - I went to the clothes shop as a result of all of my socks having holes in.
 - I went to the clothes shop because all of my socks had holes in.
 - Due to all of my socks having holes in I went to the clothes shop.