

HSK 5 Grammar 17: Cause & effect statements

HSK 5 之所以 , 是因为 / 是为了 / 是想, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Result first, reason second

Following time — 因为 所以

因为地铁停运了，所以我们改坐公交车。

Cause, then result.

Answering 'why?' — 之所以 是因为

我们之所以改坐公交车，是因为地铁停运了。

The result is in view; now the reason.

Three endings, three kinds of reason

Ending	Introduces	Example
是因为	a fact or event	我们之所以选了这家面包店，是因为他们的面包又新鲜又便宜。
是为了	a goal	我之所以把会议改到了周五，是为了让外地的同事也能到场。
是想	what someone wants	他之所以现在才说，是想请大家先别把消息发出去。

Use the evidence

Subject + 之所以 + result , ending + explanation. The subject can also follow 之所以.

Two traps

- 1 **Keep the order** 之所以 + result comes first; 是因为 + cause comes second. 我们是因为, 之所以 is wrong.
- 2 **Real results only** A near miss, or something that would have happened, needs other words.
- 3 **Cause or wish?** 是想休息 names the wish; 是因为想休息 gives the wish as a cause. Context decides.

Decision

The pattern sounds a little more prepared than a quick 因为 所以 — at home in messages and short talks.

Your turn: which ending?

Your turn

姐姐之所以六点就做好了早餐，_____。(Her brother has a match tomorrow; she hopes he eats well.)

- A. 是想让弟弟吃饱了再去比赛
- B. 是因为家里没有吃的
- C. 是为了让弟弟饿着去比赛

Your turn: the street lights

Your turn

The park put up lights on the path after two small accidents there. Which sentence reports the real result and cause?

- A. 公园之所以装了路灯，是因为小路上出过两次小意外。
- B. 公园之所以装了路灯，是为了让小路更暗。
- C. 小路之所以没出过意外，是因为公园没装路灯。

Answers: the reason why

- 1 **Breakfast** 姐姐之所以六点就做好了早餐，是想让弟弟吃饱了再去比赛。
- 2 **Street lights** 公园之所以装了路灯，是因为小路上出过两次小意外。
- 3 **The taxi** 我们之所以打了出租车，是因为末班车已经开走了。
- 4 **A purpose** 班主任之所以安排了自我介绍，是为了让新同学认识彼此。

Decision

Result with 之所以, explanation with 是因为, 是为了 or 是想 — and the facts must stay true.

Check yourself

Your turn

The reason she studies Chinese every evening is to work in Shanghai next year. Which sentence says this?

- A. 她之所以每天晚上学中文，是为了明年去上海工作。
- B. 她是为了明年去上海工作，之所以每天晚上学中文。
- C. 她之所以每天晚上学中文，是因为明年去上海工作了。