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。