

Cause/Effect Statements

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

由于——“due to, owing to”

由于 sets up a **cause** at the front of a sentence —“due to, owing to, because of.” It’s more formal than 因为, and it often pairs with 因此 / 所以 in the result clause.

Structure: 由于 + Cause , (因此 / 所以) ……

{zh: 由于 |yóu yú|due to / 天气 |tiān qì|weather / 原因 |yuán yīn|reasons / , 航班 |háng bān|the flight / 取消 |qǔ xiāo|was cancelled / 了 |le / 。 }

Due to the weather, the flight was cancelled.

{zh: 由于 |yóu yú|due to / 意见 |yì jiàn|opinions / 不一致 |bù yí zhì|differing / , 两 |liǎng|the two / 位 |wèi / 老板 |lǎo bǎn|bosses / 吵 |chǎo|started arguing / 了 |le / 起来 |qǐ lái / 。 }

Due to differing opinions, the two bosses started arguing.

Remember: 由于 = **the formal 因为**—it heads the *cause* and likes to hand off to 因此 / 所以 for the result (由于…, 因此…). One pairing trap: 因为 can pair with 所以, but 由于 leans toward 因此.

Watch out

- It’s written-leaning —in casual speech 因为 is far more common.

既然…就…——“since, now that”

既然…就… reasons forward from an **accepted fact** —“since / now that A is so, then B.” It stands on something already true and draws a suggestion or inference (often with 那 / 那就). It is **not** a hypothetical.

Structure: 既然 + (given fact) , (那) 就 + Suggestion / Inference

{zh: 既然 |jì rán|since / 你 |nǐ|you / 那么 |nà me|so / 喜欢 |xǐ huan|like it / , 那就 |nà jiù|then just / 买 |mǎi|buy it / 吧 |ba / 。 }

Since you like it so much, just buy it.

{zh: 既然 |jì rán|since / 大家 |dà jiā|everyone / 都 |dōu / 不 |bù|isn’t / 感兴趣 |gǎn xìng qù|interested / , 就 |jiù|then / 换 |huàn|change / 个 |ge / 话题 |huà tí|the topic / 吧 |ba / 。 }

Since no one’s interested, let’s change the subject.

Remember: 既然 = “since (we both know) X is true…” —it builds on a *given fact*, then suggests (那就…). Contrast 如果 / 要是, which build on an *if*. Fact → 既然; supposition → 如果.

Watch out

- The result is a suggestion or inference, usually led by 那 / 那就 / 就.

因此—”therefore, as a result”

因此 (“because of this”) rolls out a **consequence** —”therefore, as a result, for this reason.” It’s formal and common in writing, pairing naturally with a 由于 / 因为 cause.

Structure: Cause , 因此 + Effect

{zh: 昨天 |zuó tiān|yesterday / 下雨 |xià yǔ|it rained / 了 |le / , 因此 |yīn cǐ|therefore / 我 |wǒ|I / 没有 |méi yǒu|didn’t / 出门 |chū mén|go out / 。 }

It rained yesterday, so I didn’t go out.

{zh: 她 |tā|she / 在 |zài|in / 农村 |nóng cūn|the countryside / 长大 |zhǎng dà|grew up / , 因此 |yīn cǐ|therefore / 很 |hěn|well / 了解 |liǎo jiě|understands / 农民 |nóng mín|farmers’ / 的 |de / 生活 |shēng huó|life / 。 }

She grew up in the countryside, so she understands rural life well.

Remember: 因此 = ”because of THIS, therefore…” (因”because” + 此”this”) — it introduces the *effect*. Formal cousin of 所以; pairs with a 由于 / 因为 cause.

Watch out

- It leads the *result* clause —the cause comes first, then 因此 + effect.