

Female Voice: You are now listening to the IELTS podcast. Learn from tutors and ex-examiners who are masters of IELTS preparation. Your host Ben Worthington.

Ben: IELTS Speaking. Grammar structures for parts 1, 2, and 3. This tutorial will focus very specifically on using cause and effect language in your IELTS speaking test. Let's look at some of the language you will be using. Due to, because of, owing to, thanks to, as a consequence of, as a result of, because, since, as, and for.

To express cause and effect, these words or phrases will either be followed by a noun or a verb. When we talk about a situation that makes another situation happen, we talk about cause and effect. You set an expression such as because, due to, since and as to talk about causes and effects.

In this tutorial, we're going to look at the meanings of cause and effect and affect, spelt with an 'a' and you'll also learn how to express cause and effect in English and specifically in an IELTS environment or in an IELTS use, so to speak.

Now, the following phrases are followed by a noun or a noun phrase: due to, because of, owing to, as a consequence of, as a result of, thanks to. Now, in these following examples, okay, I'm going to emphasize the noun or noun phrase. Now, the cause will always come after the cause and effect signal word or phrase.

So, the structure we have is signal word or phrase plus cause plus effect, okay? Another structure is the effect, signal word or phrase and then the cause. Here are some examples.

“Due to Sarah's procrastination, she did not pass the IELTS exam.” The signal phrase here was due to, the cause was Sarah's procrastination and the effect, Sarah didn't pass the IELTS exam. Sorry, if you could hear some glee in my-- when I was talking there.

Let's move on. Followed by a noun. So, “He failed the test because of his poor preparation strategy.” The signal phrase here is because of and the cause is his poor preparation strategy, the effect, he failed the test. So, we have effect plus single signal word or phrase plus the cause.

The effect: he failed the test, okay, at the beginning. The signal phrase: because of. The cause: because of his poor preparation strategy.

Next one. Followed by a noun again. "As a result of the traffic, we cancelled the group study session." Signal phrase here: as a result of. The cause: the traffic. The effect: we cancelled the group study session. The actual structure we have: signal word or phrase plus the cause plus the effect. "As a result of the traffic, we cancelled the group study session."

Next one. "Donald could not attend owing to his impeachment." Signal phrase: owing to. Cause: Donald's impeachment. The effect: Donald could not attend. Let's move on. "He was fired as a consequence of his lies," or "He was fired as a consequence of lies." Signal phrase: as a consequence of. The cause: his lies. The effect: he was fired. So, we have the effect he was fired. The signal word or phrase and in this case, as a consequence of and the cause is his lies.

You see? Now, let's have a look at the second batch which are-- the phrases we are going to look at or the signal words because, since, as, and for. These are followed by a verb. Let's jump straight into it. First example. "Because Jared was dishonest he ended up in jail." Signal word: because. The cause: Jared was dishonest. The final effect: he ended up in jail.

Next one. "He lost a lot of money because the court proved he was guilty." Here the signal word is because and the cause the court proved he was guilty and the effect, he lost a lot of money. Next one. "The student passed her exam since she had improved with honest feedback." Signal word: since. The actual cause here was improved with honest feedback. The effect: the student passed her exam.

By the way, getting feedback is a very effective, powerful way to improve your IELTS score. You can get feedback for the writing or you can get feedback for the speaking. Getting feedback for the speaking might involve hiring a tutor, having a one-on-one class or even a group class, but specifically asking, "Hey, how can I improve? Which parts do I need to improve? Accuracy? Fluency? Pronunciation? Or even my vocabulary.

Be specific when you are asking for feedback. With the writing, it's a little bit easier. There's lots of services online. You can even check out ieltpodcast.com There's a writing service there

where we give you fast, honest, high quality feedback to help you improve quicker. Now, in your IELTS exam, you need to learn these phrases with caution.

Try to learn the structure so they sound natural. Now, the first time you use them, you might have to recall some of the grammar structure. That's okay. Now, you want to learn the phrases to a certain level until they become automatic and fluent. My biggest tip for this is the old phrase repetition is the mother of all learning.

So, just keep on using the phrase until nobody has to think. When you say the phrase, you get automatic comprehension from them. If they have to stop and think, decode, reorder what you've just said in order to make sense for themselves, then you still got some work to do.

Now then, if you have found that this tutorial was useful, please send it on to some other students that you think might be-- that might benefit from this and we can help more students pass.

Second thing I want to mention is the online course. This covers the writing, the speaking, the reading. We don't cover much of listening because we think you can do that by yourself with some listening exams. Anyway, this course comes with a guaranteed jump to Band 7 or it's free, that's for the writing and we're having some fantastic results with this at the moment.

Quite a lot of students are passing and we're getting them on the podcast and we're having some very entertaining discussions because the students will share how they passed and some good resources and just basically tips and advice how they scored a 7, an 8 or a 9.

Also, just one last thing, the methodology we use in this is quite straight forward. You watch the video, implement the advice, you send your essay for feedback, we give you the feedback with some tips and advice and motivation and how you can improve.

We show you your errors. Then you watch some more modules, implement the advice, write the essay, send it to us, we give it back to you very quickly and with more advice, more feedback and day by day you will find you are improving on writing more effective and coherent essays.

Improvement is the key here. This is what we are focusing on. And likewise, with the Speaking Confidence course we go into lots and lots of modules about how you can respond quickly, how you can respond accurately, how you can build your answer, how you can prepare for part 2, how you can get ideas for part 2.

So, if you are struggling with IELTS, you can learn all what I just said on your own. It might take a while, but you will get there eventually and maybe you'll have to do a few tests in the process or take the fast track, get on the online course, start improving, get the advice from chapter 3, get the advice from chapter 9, implement it and just improve faster.

My name is Ben Worthington. Thank you very much for listening. Have a great day and good luck with your IELTS preparation.

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