

Causal adverbs

How to use causal adverbs for expressing opinions

Because, since, and so are causal adverbs. They join two ideas when one idea causes or explains the other. *Because* and *since* introduce the cause or reason, and *so* and *therefore* introduce the effect or result:

cause / reason

gasoline is becoming scarce and expensive

effect / result

we should develop electric cars

For example:

***Because** gasoline is becoming scarce and expensive, we should develop electric cars.*

*We should develop electric cars **since** gasoline is becoming scarce and expensive.*

*Gasoline is becoming scarce and expensive, **so** we should develop electric cars.*

Therefore is slightly different. It joins the ideas in two sentences:

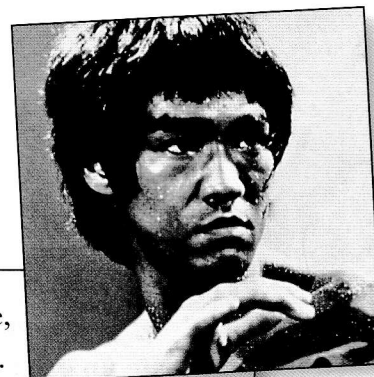
*Gasoline is becoming scarce and expensive. **Therefore**, we should develop electric cars.*

12 In the examples above, underline the causes. Circle the results. Do the causal adverbs come before the cause or before the result? Share your answers with a partner.

Punctuation note

- When *because* or *since* begin a sentence, use a comma after the first part of the sentence (the cause).
- When the effect or result comes first, don't use a comma before *because* and *since*.
- A result or effect beginning with *so* is usually the second part of a sentence. Use a comma before *so*.
- Use *Therefore* after a period.
- Use a comma after *Therefore*.

13 Complete this opinion paragraph using *because* or *since*, *so*, or *Therefore*. Add punctuation where necessary.



Bruce Lee (1940–1973), the greatest action movie star of all time, should be given a lifetime achievement award for his work in the movies. Bruce died tragically in 1973 ^a. he wouldn't be able to receive the award himself, but his fans all over the world would love to see him honored. Why was Bruce Lee so great? The fight scenes in his films were amazing ^b. Bruce was always in top physical condition. His body was almost perfect. He was also a great actor. ^c. he started acting when he was just six years old, he was very comfortable and natural in front of the camera. His face was very expressive ^d. he was able to communicate a lot of feeling with a simple look. Bruce always looked good on film ^e. he was so charming. Bruce Lee was a talented actor, a brilliant fighter, and an almost perfect example of physical fitness. ^f. he should receive an award that recognizes his great contribution to the art of film making.