

10.4. “Because of” Vs Because

In section 2.2.3, we discussed that:

- a. *because* is a *Subordinating Conjunction*, and
- b. Subordinating Conjunctions are used to form *Dependent Clauses*.

This understanding lays out the basic framework for the usage of *because*: *because* should always be followed by a *clause*.

On the other hand, notice that *because of* ends with the preposition *of* and so, must be followed by a *noun/noun phrase* (the way *prepositions* are).

The athlete won the race because the conditions for the event suiting his style.

- An easy way to see why the above sentence is *incorrect* is that in this sentence, *because* is followed by a *phrase* (remember *clauses* have *verbs*, while *phrases* don't; in this case, the portion of the sentence after *because* does *not* have a verb, and hence, it is a *phrase*). However, *because* must be followed by a *clause*. Hence, the above sentence is incorrect. One way to fix this sentence is:

The athlete won the race because the conditions for the event suited his style.

– Here, *because* is followed by a *clause* (*suit*ed is a verb, and hence, the portion of the sentence after *because* is a *clause*). Hence, this is a valid sentence.

Let's look at another sentence:

Because of increasing inflation of food items has made life difficult for common man, Central bank is considering increasing interest rates.

- An easy way to see why the above sentence is *incorrect* is that in this sentence, *because of* is followed by a *clause* (*has* is a verb, and hence, the portion of the sentence after *because of* is a *clause*). However, *because of* must be followed by a *phrase*. Hence, the above sentence is incorrect. One way to fix this sentence is:

Because increasing inflation of food items has made life difficult for common man, Central bank is considering increasing interest rates.

– By changing *because of* to *because*, we have a valid sentence now, since *because* is followed by a *clause*.

A sentence based on official question (#10, OG Verbal Review: *The rising costs of data-processing...*):

Because of increasing costs associated with starting a new business have created barriers to entry for new players in the Telecom industry.

Analysis: The usage of *because of* necessitates that only a *noun/noun phrase* should follow *because of*. However, here we have a *clause* following *because of* (what follows *because of* is a *clause* because there is a verb *have* in the portion following *because of*). This is not a valid construct. One way to fix this is to *remove* the *because of* construct:

Increasing costs associated with starting a new business have created barriers to entry for new players in the Telecom industry.