

What are Causal Clauses?

Worksheet

Causal clauses are subordinate clauses that introduce the reason or cause for something. They use French conjunctions (parce que, puisque, comme, vu que) to explain why something happens.

Questions

1. Which conjunction is most commonly used for causal clauses?
A) puisque
B) parce que
C) comme
D) vu que
2. When would you use puisque instead of parce que?
A) When the reason is new information
B) When the reason is already known to the listener
C) When the cause is uncertain
D) When the effect hasn't happened yet
3. Comme il neige, les écoles sont fermées. What does this sentence mean?
A) He is like snow and schools are closed
B) Since it's snowing, schools are closed
C) When it snows, schools are always closed
D) As he snows, the schools close
4. Can a causal clause be placed before the main clause?
A) No, never
B) Only with parce que
C) Yes, it can come before or after
D) Only in poetry
5. Elle ne vient pas à la fête parce qu'elle est malade. (She's not coming to the party because she's sick.)
6. Puisque tu insistes, je vais t'aider. (Since you insist, I'll help you.)
7. Comme il fait beau, sortons dans le jardin. (Since it's nice weather, let's go out in the garden.)
8. Define: What is a causal clause?
9. Define: Difference between parce que and puisque?
10. Define: What conjunction means 'since' or 'as' when giving a reason?

Answer Key

1. B) parce que — Parce que is the most natural and frequently used causal conjunction in French.
2. B) When the reason is already known to the listener — Puisque is used when both speaker and listener already know or accept the reason.
3. B) Since it's snowing, schools are closed — Comme introduces a causal relationship: the snow (reason) causes the school closure (effect).
4. C) Yes, it can come before or after — Causal clauses are flexible and can precede or follow the main clause.
5. Subject: Elle (she) Conjunction: parce que (because) Reason: elle est malade (she is sick)
6. Subject: tu (you) Conjunction: puisque (since) Reason: tu insistes (you insist) — this reason is already established
7. Condition: il fait beau (it's nice weather) Conjunction: comme (as, since) Consequence: sortons (let's go out)
8. A dependent clause that introduces a reason or cause for an action or state using conjunctions like parce que, puisque, comme.
9. Parce que = the reason is new. Puisque = the reason is already known to the listener.
10. Comme — it suggests the reason is obvious or already part of the context.

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