Because, in case, so, so that

1 We use because to give the reason for something:

- Because he’s got the flu, Jack is in bed.
- Because the weather was terrible, we couldn’t go out.
- Because I was in a hurry, I took a taxi.

We use because of with a noun (e.g. flu, weather, noise):

- Because of his flu, Jack is in bed.
- Because of the storm, we couldn’t go out.
- Because of the noise, I couldn’t sleep.

2 We use in case when the reason is something that might happen:

- In case it rains, I’m taking an umbrella.
- In case he wants to come with us, I’ll phone John now.

3 We use so to talk about the result of something:

- I was in a hurry, so I took a taxi.
- He’s got the flu, so he’s in bed.
- The weather was terrible, so we couldn’t go out.
- My neighbours were having a party and making a lot of noise, so I couldn’t sleep.

4 We use so that to talk about the purpose of an action:

- So that I would arrive on time, I took a taxi.
- So that I know what’s happening in the world, I listen to the news in the morning.
- So that he’ll stay fit, Tom goes jogging every day.
- So that my friends would not have to wait for me, I took a taxi.

(We can also use to + infinitive to talk about purpose; see Unit 95.)

Practice

A Write each sentence in a different way using the words given.

- Tom didn’t want to go out because he had a cold.
  Tom didn’t want to go out because of his cold.
- Take some money because you might need to take a taxi.
  Take some money, in case you need to take a taxi.
- John and I asked for a drink because we were thirsty.
  John and I were thirsty, so we asked for a drink.
- Mary went to bed because she was tired.
  So Mary went to bed.
- I couldn’t sleep because it was so hot.
  The heat.
- Jill doesn’t like apples so she doesn’t eat them.
  Because Jill doesn’t like apples, she doesn’t eat them.
- The streets were crowded because of the football match.
  There was a football match.
- I’ll give Jane a key to the house because she might get home before me.
  In case she might get home before me, I’ll give Jane a key to the house.
B Complete the sentences with *because, in case or so*, and a phrase from the box. Use each phrase once.

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<td>I’ll take a book to read</td>
<td>his passport was out of date</td>
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<td>I want to lose weight</td>
<td>his wife was ill</td>
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<tr>
<td>she’s at home</td>
<td>there is a power cut this weekend</td>
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<td>they had to wait for the next one</td>
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- They missed one bus *so they had to wait for the next one.*
  1 I don’t know where my sister is, but I’ll try phoning her ........................................
  2 I’m eating less these days .................................................................
  3 Peter had trouble at the airport ................................................................
  4 It’s a long journey ....................................................................................
  5 We’ve bought some candles .........................................................................
  6 Mr Smith didn’t go to the meeting ..........................................................

C Write out complete sentences from the words in brackets (* *), making any necessary changes and including *so that*.

- *Mark/go/swimming every day/he can stay healthy.)*
  1 *Mark goes swimming every day so that he can stay healthy.*
  2 *(Last week, my brother/lend/me £20/I could buy some new shoes.)*
  3 *(Last month, the Government/pass/new traffic laws/fewer people will have accidents.)*
  4 *(Our school has/open/a new library/we can have more books.)*
  5 *(Ann always/write/everything in her diary/she doesn’t forget her appointments.)*
  6 *(Last Friday, we/leave/home early/we could avoid the morning traffic.)*

D If the sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect cross out any incorrect words and, if necessary, write in the correct word.

- A: Why are they tired? ✓ ..............
  B: Because *that* their long journey. ef ..............
  1 I can’t come tomorrow, so that I came today. ..............
  2 Take a sandwich with you in case you get hungry. ..............
  3 Julie had to go to the shops so she needed something for lunch. ..............
  4 A: Why are you here? ..............
     B: I’m here for have a medical examination. ..............
  A: Well, since you’re here, so we can check your teeth as well. ..............