

Reasonable Talk Answer Key

Mia: I didn't go to the concert last night **because** I felt sick.

Jordan: Oh no! I stayed home too **because of** the heavy rain.

Mia: Yeah, my mom was worried **because** I looked pale.

Jordan: I missed the bus this morning **because** it came earlier than usual.

Mia: That's annoying. I was late **because of** the traffic jam.

Jordan: Same here! My teacher gave us extra homework **because** we talked during class.

Mia: That's rough. At least we'll have free time tomorrow **because** it's a half-day.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Understanding the grammatical difference between **because** (introduces a clause) and **because of** (introduces a noun or noun phrase) through dialogue editing.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - Read the dialogue aloud first and have students listen for what "sounds off."
 - Provide a reference card that lists examples of correct usage before students begin.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Turn this into a short reader's theater: have pairs perform both the incorrect and corrected versions for classmates to identify.
 - Let students write their own mini-dialogues about school or weekend plans using both *because* and *because of* correctly.
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Challenge advanced learners to rewrite the same dialogue in a different tone (formal or humorous) while keeping the correct prepositions.
 - Connect to writing practice by asking students to craft a short story that includes at least five *because* or *because of* sentences showing clear cause and effect.