

Reason Builder Answer Key

Sample Expansions

1. The dog barked **because** it heard a noise outside.
2. The library was quiet **because of** the strict rules.
3. My team lost the game **because** we didn't practice enough.
4. I stayed up late **because of** a thunderstorm that scared me.
5. The picnic was canceled **because** it started to rain.
6. We couldn't go swimming **because of** the cold water.
7. The students clapped **because** the play was amazing.
8. The store was closed **because of** a power outage.
9. The car stopped suddenly **because** a cat ran across the road.
10. The flowers bloomed early **because of** the warm spring weather.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Expanding sentences with **because** (to introduce a full clause) and **because of** (to introduce a noun or noun phrase).
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For struggling learners, provide word banks with nouns and verbs to help construct logical cause-and-effect sentences.
 - For advanced students, challenge them to combine two expanded sentences into a paragraph using both connectors correctly.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Conduct a "Sentence Swap" where students read their sentences aloud and peers identify whether *because* or *because of* was used correctly.
 - Turn it into a creative writing race: who can write the most imaginative yet grammatically correct cause sentence?
- **Extension Ideas:**
 - Have students find examples of *because* and *because of* in a class novel or article.
 - Ask students to write a short story that contains at least five correctly used *because* or *because of* sentences showing clear reasoning.