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SENTENCE STRUCTURE L9.2 – CAUSAL CLAUSES (WEIL, DA)

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WHAT ARE CAUSAL CLAUSES?

Causal clauses are subordinate clauses.

They specify the reason or cause of something.

The question words are: "Warum?", "Wieso?", "Weshalb?", "Aus welchem Grund?" "Weswegen?" They are introduced by the conjunctions "weil" or "da".

A: „**Warum** bist du 1 Stunde zu spät?“

B: „**Weil** ich den Bus verpasst habe.“

“WEIL“ OR “DA“?

If the main clause precedes the subordinate clause, "weil" is used.

- „**Warum** hast du keine Übungen gemacht?“
„Ich habe keine Übungen gemacht, **weil** ich keine Lust habe.“
- „**Wieso** arbeitet Stefan heute nicht?“
„Stefan arbeitet nicht, **weil** er krank ist.“

If the subordinate clause precedes the main clause, "da" is used.

- „**Warum** hast du keine Übungen gemacht?“
„**Da** ich keine Lust habe, habe ich keine Übungen gemacht.“
- „**Wieso** arbeitet Stefan heute nicht?“
„**Da** er krank ist, arbeitet Stefan heute nicht.“

The conjunction "weil" means the same as "da".

In informal language, "da" is often used when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. This order (SC + MC) is used when the action (in the SC) is highlighted.

**ATTENTION**

These are just suggestions about when to use "da" and when to use "weil". In terms of grammar and correctness, you can start a sentence with "weil". It's no problem at all.

SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Subordinate clauses beginning with "weil" or "da" can also stand-alone without connecting to a main clause.

This only works if the question is clear.

- „*Warum* bist du nicht in der Schule?“
„*Weil* die Schule heute ausfällt.“
- „*Aus welchem Grund* fährt er Bus?“
„*Weil* sein Auto kaputt ist.“

SUMMARY

- Causal clauses are subordinate clauses that state the reason or cause of something.
- The question words are: Warum? Wieso? Weshalb? Aus welchem Grund? Weswegen? (These all mean the same thing)
- Causal clauses begin with "weil" or "da".
- There's no difference between "weil" and "da", but we usually use "da" when the subordinate clause precedes the main clause. Otherwise, we use "weil".

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