36. GRAMMAR: Expressing Cause and Consequence [*expression de la cause et de la conséquence*]

1. Basics

In French, there are various words (adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions) that can be used to express different connections between sentences and/or sentence parts. In this section, we will present some elements used to express **cause** (and **consequence**) in French.

A conjunction is a word that connects two sentences.

(A) Some **conjunctions** that express a cause/effect relationship between sentences:

(1) The conjunction ***parce que*** (*because*) indicates a cause:

- *Je ne vais pas à l'école* ***parce que*** *je suis malade.*

- *Je suis venu en vélo* ***parce que*** *ma voiture est en panne.*

Note that you can also use the more formal ***car*** instead in these examples

(2) The conjunction ***comme*** (*since, because*) expresses the cause and usually appears at the **beginning** of the sentence:

-***Comme*** *je suis malade , je ne vais pas à l'école .*

-***Comme*** *ma voiture est en panne, je suis venu en vélo.*

(3) The conjunction ***puisque*** (*since, as*) expresses a cause that both speakers know or that seems very obvious:

- **Puisque** votre voiture est en panne, j'appellerai un dépanneur.

(B) There are also several **prepositions** that can be used to express a cause:

(1) ***grâce à / à cause de*** *:* These words are followed by a **noun phrase** :

- ***à cause de*** *(because of)* is used for a neutral or negative cause:

  → ***A cause d'*** *un accident, il a perdu l'usage de la parole.*

- ***grâce à*** *(thanks to)* is used for a positive cause*:*

  → **Grâce à** *sa femme, il a pu s'échapper de prison.*

2. Additional content

There are of course many other expressions used to express the cause-and-effect relationship. Below is a list of some other common expressions. Be careful, as some of these expressions come with very specific conditions under which they are used. Make sure to study them thoroughly!

- *Il a eu un accident* ***en raison de*** *la pluie.*
  (translation : because of, due to...;negative, neutral causes)

- Il a fait cela **par** bonté / Il a giflé son fils **par** erreur .
  (translation : by, out of *;* 'par' is always followed by a noun.

- *Il porte des lunettes* ***parce qu****'il voit très mal.*
  (translation : because...; +*indicatif*)
  [*Parce que* is typically placed in the middle of the sentence]
  [You may only use 'parce que' for answering a question when a 'pourquoi' question is asked.]

  - > *Pourquoi tu ne réponds pas ?* ***Parce que*** *je ne sais pas la réponse.*

- *Nous irons vite* ***car*** *nous avons peu de temps.*
  (translation : because...; *indicatif*)
  [***Car*** is used less and less and is often replaced by ***en effet*** or ***parce que***.]

- Il ne pourra pas venir **puisque** sa mère le lui a interdit.
  (translation : since, due to the fact that,...;*indicatif*)
  [***Puisque*** It is used when the cause or reason is already known or obvious to both parties in the conversation.]

- ***Comme*** elle arrive demain, il faut préparer une chambre.
  (translation : since;*indicatif*)
  [***Comme*** is typically placed at the **beginning** of the sentence when used to express a cause]

- ***Vu qu****'*il ne vient plus, on partira immédiatement.
  (translation : since, because; *indicatif*)