

～から

because / since

Romaji: **kara**

～から means “because” or “since” — it marks the clause in front of it as the reason for what follows. 雨が降っているから、行きません is “It’s raining, so I’m not going.” Attach it to the end of a clause in plain or polite form; nouns and な-adjectives take だから. Note that から is also the particle “from” (東京から, 3時から) — which one you are looking at depends on whether a whole clause or a bare noun sits in front of it.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb / い-adjective (plain or polite) + から

疲れたから、早く寝ます。 — I’m tired, so I’ll go to bed early.

Noun / な-adjective + だから (plain) ・ ですから (polite)

日曜日だから、店は休みです。 — It’s Sunday, so the shop is closed.

Reason as an afterthought: result first, then ～から。

もう帰ります。明日、早いですから。 — I’m heading home. I’ve got an early start tomorrow.

A different から: Noun + から = “from”

駅から歩いて十分です。 — It’s ten minutes on foot from the station.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{あめ}雨が^ふ降っているから、^{きょう}今日は^で出かけません。

It’s raining, so I’m not going out today.

② ^{やす}安かったから、^{ふた}二つ^か買いました。

It was cheap, so I bought two.

③ ^{にちようび}日曜日だから、^{ぎんこう}銀行は^し閉まっています。

It’s Sunday, so the bank is closed.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ から presents the reason as YOUR judgement, so it can sound pushy in an excuse. 体調が悪いから早退します reads as “I’ve decided”; ので softens the same sentence into something a manager will simply accept.
- ▶ In ordinary polite speech the reason clause usually stays plain and only the main clause is polite: 疲れたから、早く寝ます. Stacking ですから / ますから is correct but heavy, and belongs to formal announcements.
- ▶ から sits comfortably in front of a request or a command — 危ないから、触らないで. That is the one job ので cannot do casually.
- ▶ Ending a sentence on から (行きません。雨だから。) is conversational and slightly defensive. Used often it starts to sound like you are arguing with someone.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Think of one thing you did yesterday and the reason you did it. Say it twice — once with から, once with ので — and notice which version you would actually use talking to your boss.