

ので

because (soft)

Romaji: **node**

ので means “because” or “since”, and marks the clause in front of it as the reason for what follows. What sets it apart from から is tone: ので presents the reason as a plain fact anyone would accept rather than as your personal argument, so it is the softer and more polite-sounding of the two. Attach it to plain forms — but nouns and な-adjectives need な first: 学生なので, 静かなので. In speech it often contracts to ~んで.

構文 CONSTRUCTION

Verb / い-adjective (plain form) + ので

電車が遅れたので、遅刻しました。 — The train was late, so I was late.

Noun / な-adjective + なので

雨なので、試合は中止です。 — It's raining, so the match is off.

Polite register: ~ますので ・ ~ですので

準備ができましたので、始めましょう。 — Everything is ready, so let's begin.

Casual contraction ~んで

眠いんで、もう寝ます。 — I'm sleepy, so I'm off to bed.

例文 EXAMPLES

① ^{でんしゃ} ^{おく} 電車が遅れたので、^{ちこく} 遅刻しました。

The train was delayed, so I was late.

② ^{きょう} ^{あめ} 今日は雨なので、^{かさ} ^も ^い 傘を持って行きます。

It's raining today, so I'll take an umbrella.

③ ^へ ^や ^{しず} 部屋が静かなので、^{ねむ} よく眠れます。

The room is quiet, so I sleep well.

注意点 NUANCES

- ▶ The な after nouns and な-adjectives is not optional: 学生なので, 便利なので — never x学生ので. This is the single most common mistake with this pattern.
- ▶ ので frames a reason as something outside your control, which is exactly why it works as an apology or an excuse: 用事があるので失礼します lands as reasonable, where から would land as decided.
- ▶ Station and shop announcements are built on ので: 危険ですので、白線の内側までお下がりください. In that formal register ので happily precedes a request; in casual speech から is the natural choice there.
- ▶ んで is spoken shorthand and looks careless in writing. Keep ので in anything you send or submit.

やってみよう YOUR TURN

Write two sentences excusing yourself from a meeting — one to a close friend, one to your manager. Use から for the friend and ので for the manager, then read both aloud and listen to the difference.