

# How to Answer

## Question 10: Why do Certain Things Happen?

*Next we look for cause and effect relationships by noting actions, connectors, and explanations.*

1. Search the study passage for any of these **connector** words or phrases: **because**, **for**<sup>\*</sup>, **in order that**, **in order to**, **lest**, **since**<sup>\*</sup>, **so**<sup>\*</sup>, **so that**, **that**<sup>\*</sup>, **to**<sup>\*</sup>, **therefore**.  
**NOTE:** The words marked by <sup>\*</sup>, above, have more than one function in English. *For*, *since*, *so*, *that*, and *to* **don't always** join an action statement to its explanation. If you're not sure whether one of these five words is a connector, see the first bullet under Hints and Hacks, below.
2. On your Scripture-study sheet, mark **connector** words or phrases (I use purple angle brackets < > to remind me to look before and after the connectors to find the action and the explanation).
3. Next look for the **action** that's being explained. With most of the connectors, the pattern occurs **Action > Connector > Explanation** (ACE), but with *therefore* and *so*, that script is flipped. It's **Explanation > Connector > Action** (ECA).
4. Note what you discover. I write out what I've found, dividing the sentence into the **action** statement, the **connector** and the **explanation** as follows:

**Action:**           *He said this*

**Connector:**       *to*

**Explanation:**   *show by what kind of death he was going to die (John 12:33).*

OR

**Explanation:**   *See! The Lord has given you the Sabbath*

**Connector:**       *therefore;*

**Action:**           *on the sixth day he gives you bread for two days (Exodus 16:29).*

### Hints & Hacks

- Sometimes, English translations using **therefore** or **since** place **both** the *action* and *explanation* **after** the *connector*. For example, in Genesis 41:39 ESV we see, *Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are,"* which I recorded as follows:

**Action:**           *there is none so discerning and wise and you [Joseph] are*

**Connector:**       *Since*

**Explanation:**   *God has shown you [Joseph] all this*

In other words, Pharaoh believed Joseph exceeded all others in wisdom and discernment **because** God had shown Joseph *all this*.

- If you're not sure whether **for**, **since**, **so**, **that**, or **to** functions as a connector in your passage, check at least one other translation of the passage. If you can't do that (or it doesn't help), here's a quick test: read the sentence aloud, substituting a different connector—  
**because** instead of **for** or **since**,  
**therefore** instead of **so**,  
**so that** instead of **that**, or  
**in order to** instead of **to**—  
for the word you're not sure of. **If the substitution doesn't make sense or changes the meaning of the sentence, the word in question is not a connector.**
- Remember Questions 1-11 are focused on seeing only what the text actually says. Beware of assuming connections where you don't find a connector word or phrase.