

GIVING REASONS AND EXPLANATIONS

B2-C1 | Functional language for explaining decisions clearly

1 Useful phrase patterns

Use these phrases to explain a decision, link ideas and show the effect of a cause.

The main reason is that ...

The main reason is that the evidence is incomplete.

This is largely because ...

This is largely because demand has changed.

One factor is ...

One factor is the limited time available.

This means that ...

This means that the deadline may need to move.

As a result, ...

As a result, we need an alternative plan.

The decision was based on ...

The decision was based on customer feedback.

This was necessary in order to ...

This was necessary in order to reduce risk.

The aim was to ...

The aim was to make the process simpler.

2 Respond to the situations

Write one clear explanation or justification in each situation.

1. Your team postponed a product launch because testing showed several problems.

2. A company changed its opening hours because fewer customers visited in the evening.

3. You recommend a smaller project because the available budget is limited.

4. A manager arranged extra training because staff needed to use new software.

5. Your team chose a supplier because customers gave that supplier positive feedback.

6. A meeting was moved online because several people were travelling.

7. You want to collect more information before making a decision because the current data is unclear.

8. A business simplified its website because customers found the old site difficult to use.

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B2-C1 | Suggested answers

3 Possible answers

These are examples only. Other accurate and suitable responses are also correct.

Encourage students to choose a phrase that suits the relationship and situation.

1. We postponed the launch in order to resolve the problems found during testing.

2. The opening hours changed largely because evening customer numbers fell.

3. One factor is the limited budget, so a smaller project is more realistic.

4. Extra training was necessary in order to help staff use the new software.

5. The decision was based on positive customer feedback about the supplier.

6. Several people were travelling. As a result, the meeting was moved online.

7. The main reason for collecting more information is that the current data is unclear.

8. The aim was to make the website easier for customers to use.
