93 *because, so, so that*

1 *because*

Because joins two sentences and explains *why*:
Everyone loves Johnny Depp. He's a brilliant actor.
Everyone loves Johnny Depp ***because*** *he's a brilliant actor.*

We use *because of* + noun:
All the trains are late ***because of the bad weather.***

⚠ But we cannot use *because of* + noun and verb:
✗ ~~*All the trains are late because of it is snowing.*~~
✓ *All the trains are late* ***because of the snow.***

We can use *because* and *because of* at the beginning of a sentence. When we do this, we put a comma (,) after the first clause:
Because *he's a brilliant actor, everyone loves him.*
Because of *the bad weather, all the trains are late.*

2 *so*

So gives the result of something:
Lucia didn't work hard ***so*** *she failed her Spanish exam.*
Summers are getting hotter ***so*** *different types of plants are growing.*

3 *so that, to* + infinitive

We use *so that* to say why a person does something. *Can* and *could* often come after *so that*:
Andrew wants to join the police ***so that*** *he* ***can*** *help people.*
She worked really hard ***so that*** *she* ***could*** *go to university.*

We can also use *to* + infinitive instead of *so that*:
I'm joining the police ***so that*** *I can help people.*
I'm joining the police ***to help*** *people.*

NATURAL ENGLISH In everyday English, *to* + infinitive is more common than *so that*:
Liz has gone to the shops ***so that*** *she can buy some bread.*
→ *Liz has gone to the shops* ***to buy*** *some bread.*