

# Reduction in negative contracted forms and variation in *because* in Lancashire (Bolton) English

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# ROADMAP

## 1 Aims

## 2 *because*

2.1 Variant pronunciations

2.2 Semantics and discourse

2.3 Age-grading

2.4 The PAC Lancashire data

## 3 Contracted negative forms

# AIMS

**1/ When do we use disyllabic and monosyllabic forms of *because*?**

**2/ Is there age-grading in the use of the variants?**

**3/ What about traces of /dɪnt/ /kʊnt/ /wʊnt/?**

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## **2.1 Variant pronunciations**

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LCf 02:36 **yes... [bʊ'kɒz] my brother was even brighter than I was**

LCf 11:56 **while I was with Mother, it was a wonderful escape... [bʊ'kɒz] the people in theatre are very interesting**

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LBf 13:37 **so all the things that happen at night in theme parks..were cancelled...and...because [bikəz] it was absolutely horrendous**

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DKi 19:40 **It's just rubbish anyway, it's not .... 'coz**  
**[kəz]** it's just automatically generated code

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- 2/ LC (77) and MC (71) do use [kɒz]**
- 3/ younger speakers use both full and various reduced forms**

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**continuous link (no pauses around *because*)**

**LBi 01:09 without realizing.. that I was going to actually miss the end **because [bikəz]** I'd be in America**

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MDf 03:05 **that was strange 'coz [kəz] I didn't know  
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MOi 31:27 **and somebody objected and she got stopped...because [bɪ'kɒz]** it is a turnaround

LBf 08:08 **he preferred my brother...'coz [kəz]** my brother is four years older than myself and he...

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MDi 18:24 **it might just be worth it because [bɪkəz]...  
then you can do your essay**

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**non-continuous link: *because* in 'isolation'**

JMi 04:06 **it's quite funny. It is weird and... **Because** **[bɪkəz]**.... we are not even in our own office so we can't hide away from people....**

JMi 01:20 **oh you said...**because** **[bɪkəz]** ...what is it that you/you**

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**A – because.... – so A' (Passot 2007)**

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MDi 04:40 **as soon as I got out on to A64 it was fine...  
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JMi 13:23 **is that what you?....'coz [kɒz] your Master's  
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**parenthetical because clause**

**LCf 16:11 and it had eight..half-page sepia pictures  
they didn't go in for full colours in those days 'cos  
[kɒz] that would be about 1931...and just then I was  
beginning to realize that I was called....**

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*didn't mean*

SCt [dɪnt]

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further isolated examples

DKf 13:44 I *didn't* [dɪnt] try to change my accent...

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# CONCLUSIONS

**-disyllabic and monosyllabic full or reduced variants of *because* do not depend on rate of speech**

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**-some evidence for age-grading**

**-older speakers use fewer forms of *because***

**-older speakers still use [dɪnt]**

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**

# REFERENCES

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**Carter, Ronald and Michael McCarthy. 2006. *Cambridge Grammar of English*. CUP.**

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