Introduction

She’s just been promoted, hence the new car.

Definition

Hence is an adverb which has the meaning ‘and that is why’; ‘that’s an explanation for’; ‘as a consequence’ or ‘for this reason’.

Construction

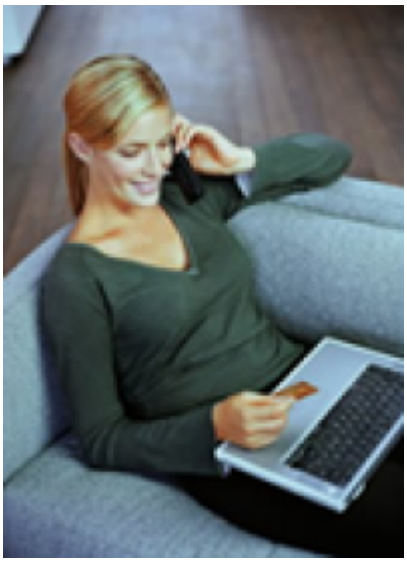
There are several possibilities but it is often placed at the beginning of the second clause in a sentence, and is followed by a noun or a verb.

Uses

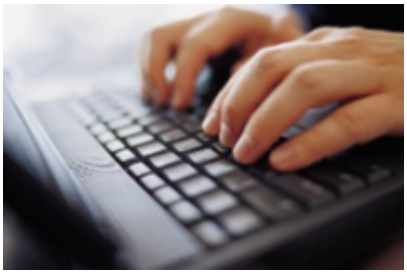
Because it can be used in place of longer expressions, as above, it makes sentences shorter and more succinct, and so it is useful for improving writing style.

Examples

-  We wanted better communication with our customers, hence the decision to be more present on social media.

-  With more people working from home, there are fewer cars on the road and, hence, less pollution.
-  Sleeping patterns depend on age, hence the reason why teenagers usually go to bed later and get up later.
-  Brainstorming stimulates some unexpected ideas and hence facilitates innovation.
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They’re working on some cutting cutting-edge technology in their laboratories, hence all the extra security.

-  I didn’t have time to proofread, hence the typos!

Note that the word ‘hence’ has other meanings that are different from this one. If in doubt, check in a good dictionary.

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