Word for Word

Due to or owing to?

Due to and owing to are similar phrases, but they are not interchangeable because they have different functions in a sentence.

Due to is an adjectival phrase.

Examples
The rats’ dramatic escape from the lab was due to the faulty latch on their cage.
We felt certain that the patient’s deteriorating condition was due to the flu.

In contrast, owning to is an adverbial phrase.

Examples
Owing to his love of old books, we had great difficulty getting him out of the library archives.
The patient was referred for rehabilitation therapy owing to her recent back surgery.

Helpful hint: If you can replace due to with caused by in a sentence without changing the sentence’s meaning, then you have used due to correctly. Likewise, if you can replace owing to with because of without changing a sentence’s meaning, then owning to is used correctly.
Bibliography


— Laura L. Russell

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