

## PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES

REASON	CONTRAST	ADDITION
as a result of due to because of owing to as a consequence of thanks to	despite in spite of	in addition to besides

Prepositional phrases of reason, addition, and contrast can be used to give extra information and extend sentences. Unlike sentence connectors or subordinators, a prepositional phrase can **NEVER** be followed by a clause (SVO). Read the example sentences below and pay attention to the sentence structures.

### a. Prepositional Phrases of Reason (as a result of, due to, because of ...)

**Examples:**

The sales assistant took a day off work since she was really ill.

- **As a result of** her illness, the sales assistant took a day off work.
- The sales assistant took a day off work **as a result of** her illness.
  
- **Because of** being ill, the sales assistant took a day off work.
- The sales assistant took a day off work **because of** being ill.

It was raining heavily, so I decided to stay indoors and read a good book with a cup of hot tea.

- **Owing to** the heavy rain, I decided to stay indoors and read a good book with a cup of hot tea.
- I decided to stay indoors and read a good book with a cup of hot tea **owing to** the heavy rain.

Because they did not take the necessary precautions on time, they ended up facing severe consequences.

- **Due to NOT** taking the necessary precautions on time, they ended up facing severe consequences.
- They ended up facing severe consequences **due to NOT** taking the necessary precautions on time.

Since she worked hard and took on many responsibilities, she became the employee of the month.

- **As a consequence of** working hard and taking on many responsibilities, she became the employee of the month.
- She became the employee of the month **as a consequence of** working hard and taking on many responsibilities.
  
- **Thanks to** working hard and taking on many responsibilities, she became the employee of the month.
- She became the employee of the month **thanks to** working hard and taking on many responsibilities.

**Note that "thanks to" is usually used to express positive causes.**

**REMEMBER:** Prepositional Phrases are always followed by nouns/noun phrases or the gerund form of a verb. They CANNOT be followed by SVO structures.

Prepositional Phrase + Noun: **As a result of the snow**, the roads were blocked.

Prepositional Phrase + Noun Phrase: **Due to his accounting errors**, the company lost millions.

Prepositional Phrase + Gerund: **Thanks to saving every penny they earned**, they were able to have a nice and relaxing holiday last summer.

**INCORRECT:** ~~As a result of there was a lot of snow~~, the roads were blocked. (= "There was a lot of snow" is a sentence (SVO), and it cannot follow a prepositional phrase.)

**INCORRECT:** ~~Thanks to they saved every penny they earned~~, they were able to have a nice and relaxing holiday last summer.  
(= "They saved every penny they earned" is a sentence (SVO), and it cannot follow a prepositional phrase.)

### Exercise 1. Rewrite the sentences using "Prepositional Phrases of Reason".

1. As it contains high levels of protein, whey is a great supplement for athletes. **(thanks to)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Jessica received a commendation from the company CEO since she exceeded her sales targets for the quarter. **(as a result of)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. The locals had to evacuate the town because a hurricane was approaching. **(due to)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

### b. Prepositional Phrases of Contrast (despite, in spite of)

#### Examples:

Although she was exhausted, she continued to push herself forward.

- **Despite** being exhausted/**Despite** her exhaustion, she continued to push herself forward.
- She continued to push herself forward **despite** being exhausted/her exhaustion.

Even though David dislikes public speaking, he agreed to give the presentation.

- **In spite of** disliking public speaking, David agreed to give the presentation.
- David agreed to give the presentation **in spite of** disliking public speaking.

### Exercise 2. Rewrite the sentences using "Prepositional Phrases of Contrast".

1. Although the members of my team doubted their abilities, they persevered and succeeded. **(despite)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Even though she didn't have much experience, she took on the leadership role confidently. **(in spite of)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. He hesitated at first, yet he eventually made the decision to pursue his dreams. **(despite)**  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. I got lost couple of times on the way, but I still reached my destination on time. **(in spite of)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

### c. Prepositional Phrases of Addition (in addition to, besides)

#### Examples:

I study computer science. I also enjoy exploring different cuisines from around the world

- **In addition to** studying computer science, I enjoy exploring different cuisines from around the world.
- I enjoy exploring different cuisines from around the world **in addition to** studying computer science.

They had unforgettable experiences; moreover, they learned valuable lessons along the way.

- **Besides** (having) unforgettable experiences, they learned valuable lessons along the way.
- They learned valuable lessons along the way **besides** (having) unforgettable experiences.

#### Exercise 3. Rewrite the sentences using the "Prepositional Phrases of Addition".

1. My team supervisor not only leads with authority but also provides a supportive and collaborative environment. (**besides**)

2. This new smartphone has a sleek design and powerful performance. (**in addition to**)

3. Tokyo suffers from overcrowding. It also grapples with traffic congestion and housing shortages. (**in addition to**)

#### Exercise 4. Fill in the blanks using the prepositional phrases in the box below.

in addition to	as a result of	despite	in spite of	thanks to	due to
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### BEING A UNIVERSITY STUDENT

As a university student, my life is filled with both challenges and opportunities for growth. <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ attending classes and studying for exams, I also engage in extracurricular activities to broaden my horizons. <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ balancing academics and extracurriculars, I've developed time management skills that are invaluable for my future career. <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the occasional setbacks, such as academic setbacks or personal struggles, I remain committed to my education. <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the long hours that I spend studying, I find fulfillment in acquiring knowledge and pursuing my passions. <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the support from my professors and peers, I am able to overcome obstacles and thrive in my academic journey. <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the enriching experiences at university, I have grown both intellectually and personally, and that prepares me for the challenges that lie ahead in the professional world.

#### Exercise 5. Complete the following sentences in your own words.

1. Despite \_\_\_\_\_, some students \_\_\_\_\_

2. As a consequence of \_\_\_\_\_, a great number of young adults \_\_\_\_\_

3. Thanks to \_\_\_\_\_, I was able to \_\_\_\_\_

4. The university provides \_\_\_\_\_ to its students in addition to \_\_\_\_\_

## ANSWER KEY

### Exercise 1.

1. **Thanks to containing** high levels of protein, whey is a great supplement for athletes.
2. Jessica received a commendation from the company CEO **as a result of exceeding** her sales targets for the quarter.
3. The locals had to evacuate the town **due to a hurricane/due to an approaching hurricane**.

### Exercise 2.

1. **Despite doubting** their abilities, the members of my team persevered and succeeded.
2. **In spite of NOT having** much experience, she took on the leadership role confidently.
3. **Despite hesitating** at first, yet he eventually made the decision to pursue his dreams.
4. **In spite of getting** lost couple of times on the way, but I still reached my destination on time.

### Exercise 3. Rewrite the sentences using the "Prepositional Phrases of Addition".

1. **Besides leading** with authority, my team supervisor (also) provides a supportive and collaborative environment.
2. **In addition to a/its/having** a sleek design, this new smartphone has powerful performance.
3. **In addition to suffering** from overcrowding, Tokyo (also) grapples with traffic congestion and housing shortages.

### Exercise 4.

As a university student, my life is filled with both challenges and opportunities for growth. **In addition to** attending classes and studying for exams, I also engage in extracurricular activities to broaden my horizons. **As a result of/Due to/Thanks to** balancing academics and extracurriculars, I've developed time management skills that are invaluable for my future career. **Despite/In spite of** the occasional setbacks, such as academic setbacks or personal struggles, I remain committed to my education. **Despite/In spite of** the long hours that I spend studying, I find fulfillment in acquiring knowledge and pursuing my passions. **As a result of/Due to/Thanks to** the support from my professors and peers, I am able to overcome obstacles and thrive in my academic journey. **As a result of/Due to/Thanks to** the enriching experiences at university, I have grown both intellectually and personally, preparing me for the challenges that lie ahead in the professional world.

### Exercise 5.

\* Answers may vary.