

LINKING WORDS OR CONTRAST

Study how the linking words of contrast are used in sentences

Although / Even though

We can use 'although' at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. It is used in front of a clause (a clause has at least a subject and a verb that agrees with the subject).

- **Although** the weather is bad, I love London.
- I love London, **although** the weather is bad.
- **Even though** I exercise every day, I can't seem to lose any weight.
- I can't seem to lose any weight **even though** I exercise every day.

Despite / in spite of

We use 'despite' or 'in spite of' before a noun or a gerund. It can also go in the middle or at the beginning of a sentence. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' mean exactly the same thing. You can choose whichever one you like! If you want to use 'despite' or 'in spite of' before a clause, you need to add 'the fact that'.

- I love London **despite** the bad weather.
- I love London **in spite of** the bad weather.
- **Despite** the bad weather, I love London.
- **In spite of** the bad weather, I love London.
- **Despite the fact that** the weather is bad, I love London.
- **In spite of the fact that** the weather is bad, I love London.
- I love London **despite the fact that** the weather is bad.
- I love London **in spite of the fact that** the weather is bad.

However

We use 'although' and 'despite / in spite of' to connect two clauses in the same sentence. On the other hand, 'however' isn't used to connect two clauses. Instead, we usually put the two ideas in two separate sentences. We put 'however' in the second sentence, and we can put it at the beginning, at the end, or after the subject.

- I love London. **However**, the weather is bad.
- I love London. The weather, **however**, is bad.
- I love London. The weather is bad, **however**.

Exercise 1 After you've studied the examples, complete the sentences with the right missing words:

1. _____ the rain, we still went to the park.
2. _____ it was raining, we still went to the park.
3. It was raining. _____, we still went to the park.
4. John bought the watch, _____ the fact that it was expensive.
5. John bought the watch. _____, it was expensive.
6. _____ it was expensive, John bought the watch.
7. I finished the homework. It, _____, wasn't easy.
8. I finished the homework, _____ it wasn't easy.
9. _____ the fact that it wasn't easy, I finished the homework.

10. She went for a long walk, _____ being cold.
11. _____ she was cold, she went for a long walk.
12. She was cold. She went for a long walk, _____.
13. The restaurant has a good reputation. _____, the food was terrible.
14. _____ the restaurant's good reputation, the food was terrible.
15. _____ the restaurant has a good reputation, the food was terrible.

Exercise 2 Choose the correct alternative.

1. _____ getting low marks in her first year at uni, she ended up graduating with top marks.

- ☐ Although
- ☐ Despite
- ☐ In spite of the fact that

2. _____ that I'm fluent in Spanish, I still get nervous if I have to give a presentation.

- ☐ Despite the fact
- ☐ Even though
- ☐ In spite of

3. I enjoyed maths as a child, _____ I found it difficult.

- ☐ even though
- ☐ in spite of the fact
- ☐ however

4. I've got a 20-hour wait in Jakarta. I don't mind, _____! I'll sleep on the plane.

- ☐ although
- ☐ even though
- ☐ though

5. _____ I enjoyed the film, I disagree with the reviews that call it a masterpiece.

- ☐ Despite
- ☐ In spite of
- ☐ Although

Exercise 3 Complete the second sentence so that the meaning of it stays the same.

1. I was very tired but I couldn't sleep.

Despite _____

2. My foot was injured. I managed to walk to the nearest village.

_____ although _____.

3. I enjoyed the film. The story was silly.
_____ in spite of _____.
4. We live in the same street. We hardly ever see each other.
Despite _____, _____.
5. I got very wet in the rain. I was only out for five minutes.
Even though _____, _____.
6. They have very little money. They are happy.
_____. However, _____.

Exercise 4 Use the words in the list to complete the gaps. You will need to use some words/phrases more than once. The first one (0) is given as an example

despite/in spite of however although but even though

Shop till you drop!

Despite/In spite of (0) the fact that Kelly had lots of homework to do, she agreed to go shopping with her friend Justine. Justine loved to buy wild clubbing clothes, whereas Kelly was more of a jeans and T-shirt kind of girl. _____ (1) the rain, they set off on Saturday morning for the town centre. Justine, as always, had far more cash than Kelly. _____ (2), Kelly had an eye for a bargain. Lunch time found them happy and hungry at the local burger bar. _____ (3) they'd spent nearly all their money, there were still a few shops that Justine wanted to visit (_____ (4) she'd promised to be frugal), and _____ (5) having aching feet, they managed a couple more hours' shopping