Linking words for contrast

We use these linking words to show contrast:

although	even though	while	whereas	but
however	despite	in spite of		
on the one hand, … (on the other hand,)				

although, even though, while and *whereas*

- We use *although, even though, while* and *whereas* to put two contrasting ideas in one sentence:
  I didn't buy the dress ***although*** *I thought it was beautiful.*
- They can be placed at the beginning of the sentence or in the middle, between the two contrasting ideas:
  It was late. She decided to phone him. ➔ ***Although*** *it was late, she decided to phone him.* OR *She decided to phone him* ***although*** *it was late.*
- When the sentence begins with *although, even though, while* or *whereas*, we separate the two parts with a comma. When these words are placed in the middle, the comma is optional:
  Berlin is a noisy city. My home village is quite peaceful. ➔ ***While*** *Berlin is a noisy city, my home village is quite peaceful.* OR *Berlin is a noisy city* ***whereas*** *my home village is quite peaceful.*
- *even though* is stronger than *although*:
  I didn't buy the car, ***even though*** *I had the money ready in my pocket.*

but

- *but* can be used to join two sentences. In this case, it is used in the middle of the sentence and it often follows a comma:
  We warned her, ***but*** *she didn't pay any attention.*
- *but* can sometimes be used at the beginning of a new sentence:
  He likes romantic films. ***But*** *don't tell anybody!*

despite and *in spite of*

- *despite* and *in spite of* mean 'without taking any notice of or being influenced by'; 'not prevented by':
  He got into the basketball team ***despite*** *being quite short.*
  She went swimming ***in spite of*** *the cold weather.*
- They can be placed at the beginning of the sentence or in the middle. They are followed by a noun or a verb + *-ing*.
- When used at the beginning of a sentence, a comma is also used to separate the two parts of the sentence:
  Despite *working all day, Teresa didn't feel at all tired.*
  We got to school on time ***in spite of*** *the heavy traffic.*

on the one hand, … (on the other hand,)

- *on the one hand … (on the other hand)* normally start new sentences and can be used to balance two contrasting ideas or points of view:
  I'm not sure whether to go to the seaside for my holidays this year. ***On the one hand****, most of my friends are going.* ***On the other hand****, it's time to have a change and go somewhere different.*
- *on the other hand* can be used to introduce a contrasting idea even if you haven't used *on the one hand*:
  Doing sport can be a great way to relax. ***On the other hand****, it can cause quite serious injuries.*

Read Violetta's answer to the task, ignoring the gaps. Which of her ideas do you agree with and which do you disagree with?

(1) ..... it is fashionable to say that everyone should share the housework equally, in many homes parents do most of it. **(2)** ..... , I believe people of all ages should do their fair share.

It is true that young people spend most of the day at school or college and they also have large amounts of homework to do when they come home. **(3)** ..... , parents go out to work and come home tired. In my view, family life is more pleasant when everyone shares the responsibility for cleaning and tidying because it takes less time.

People often argue that parents do the cooking and ironing better. **(4)** ..... in my opinion, young people should learn to do them as preparation for the future.

Finally, housework is boring if you do it alone **(5)** ..... when families do it together, it gives parents and children a chance to talk to each other about the things that matter to them. This greatly improves family life and makes young people more cooperative and responsible.

For all these reasons, I think that family life is more pleasant when everyone shares the chores.

6 When you write an essay, you should try to present contrasting points of view. Complete Violetta's essay by writing *although, however, on the other hand* or *whereas* in each of the gaps 1–5. Then check your answers by reading the Language reference.

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7 Complete these sentences by writing *although, however, on the other hand* or *whereas* in the gaps. In some cases, more than one answer may be possible.

1 Adults tend to worry more about their health, ... young people are more concerned about money.
2 ..... I am happy to do some of the cooking, I don't want to do it all.
3 My mum and dad have similar tastes. ..... , mine are completely different.
4 ..... my parents give me a lot of freedom, I would prefer to have even more independence.
5 Young people often spend many hours a week on their social life. ..... , older people are often too busy.
6 I enjoy making beds. ..... , I'm not at all keen on doing the ironing.

LIVEWORKSHEETS