

Unit 6 Economic sectors

Choosing the best country to locate a factory in

A REPORT (comparing options)

The plant location decision has now been passed to the investment board for a decision. As the assistant to the chairperson you have been asked to prepare a report comparing the two options: the UK or China.

PHRASES USED TO MAKE COMPARISON

When we make a direct comparison between two ideas or statements, we can use several linking words:

WHILE / WHEREAS

*In China, we will have problems with finding experienced business managers **while / whereas** in the UK we can use our existing management.*

BY CONTRAST

We can also use **by contrast** when the comparison is expressed in a new sentence.

*In China, few workers have high levels of education. **By contrast**, in the UK, we can recruit graduates easily.*

ALTHOUGH

Although can be used within a sentence, after a comma.

*The scheme will be successful, **although** it will take time.*

THOUGH / EVEN THOUGH

Other expressions similar to although are **though** and **even though**.

*The scheme will be successful, **though** it will take time.*

We use **even though** when we talk about a surprising or unexpected circumstance. It is closer to '**despite the fact that**'.

*They rejected our offer for the company, **even though** it was very high.*

Although, though, and even though can also be used at the beginning of a sentence to introduce two contrasting ideas or situations.

***Although / Though / Even though** the banks refused to offer us a loan, we still secured the funding.*

DESPITE

Despite is followed by a noun, and can be used in the middle of a sentence or at the beginning.

***Despite** the economic climate, she decided to start her own business.*

We can also use **in spite of** with the same meaning and in the same position as **despite**. We use **in spite of + noun phrase**.

***In spite of** all expectations, the company performed well.*

We use **in spite of the fact that** and **despite the fact that** before a clause.

*Consumer spending increased, **in spite of the fact that / despite the fact that** prices were very high.*

Look back at the notes you made in Listening on p.48 (Student's book) and complete the report providing your arguments about the pros and cons of a certain location, supporting them with your insights and using as many COMPARISON PHRASES as possible.

A REPORT

Title: _____

Objectives:

The purpose of this report is to _____

Findings: (compare China and the UK for each category; use comparing/contrasting expressions; give reasons WHY one country is better than the other or HOW beneficial it might be for you)

labour costs: _____

land costs: _____

suppliers: _____

recruitment: _____

quality levels: _____

new product development: _____

3 Recommendations: (Give reasons for your conclusion; use **though, although, despite, etc.**)

Having considered the different options, we have concluded that we are in favour of _____.

This is because _____
