

Two Roads, One Destination

Although the storm had finally passed, the road was still soaked, the air thick with tension. **Lena** stood at the fork in the road, phone in hand, GPS blinking uselessly. She had two options: wait for someone to help, or continue alone.

She remembered her last trip — when she had chosen the easier path and ended up missing the most breathtaking view. **While that choice had been safe, it had also been forgettable.**

Despite her growing fatigue, she walked toward the unpaved trail. Every step echoed with doubt.

Her partner had warned her: "You always underestimate the risks."

Even though she was exhausted, something in her insisted this was the right way. And so she pressed on.

The view at the summit was hidden by fog. She smiled. **In spite of the uncertainty, she had made it.**

Not every decision needs a clear reward. Sometimes, the act of choosing is enough.

QUESTIONS

1. What situation is Lena facing at the beginning of the story?

2. How does her past experience influence her current decision?

3. What is contrasted in her memories vs. her present path?

4. What deeper message does the story suggest about choices?

5. Find and explain the effect of **three contrastive structures** in the text.

VOCABULARY

Match the expressions with their meanings:

Word or Phrase	Meaning
In spite of / Despite	a. Extreme tiredness
Fatigue	b. Although; to show contrast
Tension	c. The process of deciding
Underestimate	d. Obscured by mist
Unpaved trail	e. A stunning natural scene
Breathtaking view	f. Difficult path, not a regular road
Press on	g. Keep going, continue despite problems
Hidden by fog	h. Misjudge as less serious than it is
Blink uselessly	i. Seem active but not functioning
The act of choosing	j. Mental/emotional pressure

Complete the sentences using the vocabulary from the previous exercise. Use each word/phrase once.

1. She knew the _____ trail would be tough, but she still took it.

2. The GPS continued to _____, offering no help.
3. _____ her discomfort, she moved forward without hesitation.
4. There was a quiet _____ in the air before she chose the direction.
5. The reward at the top was a _____ that left her speechless.
6. He had told her not to _____ the weather conditions.
7. She chose to _____, no matter how difficult it felt.
8. The view was partly _____, but she didn't mind.
9. She was overwhelmed by _____ after walking for hours.
10. Sometimes _____ is more important than the outcome.

GRAMMAR FOCUS: Concessive Clauses & Contrastive Linkers

Explanation with examples from the text

Connector	Example from story	Notes
Although / Even though	<i>Although the storm had passed...</i>	Clause with contrast
While / Whereas	<i>While that choice had been safe...</i>	Compare two situations
Despite / In spite of	<i>Despite her growing fatigue...</i>	+ noun / -ing form
However	<i>(Useful in writing – not used in story)</i>	Separate sentence contrast

GRAMMAR PRACTICE 1: Fill in the blanks

Use: **although / even though / while / whereas / despite / in spite of**

1. _____ she felt nervous, she didn't hesitate.

2. The easy path was shorter, _____ it offered no views.
 3. _____ her fatigue, she continued climbing.
 4. He prefers safe travel, _____ she enjoys adventure.
 5. _____ the warning signs, she carried on.
 6. _____ the journey was long, it was worth it.
 7. She smiled _____ having no clear destination.
 8. _____ the fog, she reached the top.
 9. _____ the GPS didn't work, she stayed calm.
 10. She doubted herself, _____ she never gave up.
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GRAMMAR PRACTICE 2: Rewrite the pairs.

Rewrite using contrastive linkers

1. She was tired. She didn't stop walking.

2. It was raining. The view was still beautiful.

3. She had doubts. She made the choice.

4. He prefers city life. She prefers remote places.

5. The trail was tough. She didn't regret her decision.

6. There was no reward. She felt proud.

7. The fog was thick. The scenery was magical.

8. She didn't train. She climbed with ease.

9. He warned her. She ignored it.

10. She could have turned back. She chose not to.
