

Although / though / even though In spite of / despite

A

Study this example situation:



Last year Paul and Sarah had a holiday by the sea. It rained a lot, but they enjoyed it.

You can say:

Although it rained a lot, they enjoyed it.

(= It rained a lot, *but* they ...)

or

In spite of / **Despite** } the rain, they enjoyed it.

B

After **although** we use a *subject + verb*:

- Although it rained** a lot, we enjoyed our holiday.
- I didn't get the job **although I had** the necessary qualifications.

Compare the meaning of **although** and **because**:

- We went out **although** it was raining heavily.
- We didn't go out **because** it was raining heavily.

C

After **in spite of** or **despite**, we use a *noun*, a *pronoun* (**this/that/what** etc.) or **-ing**:

- In spite of the rain**, we enjoyed our holiday.
- I didn't get the job **in spite of having** the necessary qualifications.
- She wasn't well, but **in spite of this** she continued working.
- In spite of what** I said yesterday, I still love you.

Despite is the same as **in spite of**. We say **in spite of**, but **despite** (*without of*):

- She wasn't well, but **despite this** she continued working. (*not despite of this*)

You can **say in spite of the fact (that) ...** and **despite the fact (that) ...**:

- I didn't get the job { **in spite of the fact (that)** / **despite the fact (that)** } I had the necessary qualifications.

Compare **in spite of** and **because of**:

- We went out **in spite of the rain**. (*or ... despite the rain.*)
- We didn't go out **because of the rain**.

D

Compare **although** and **in spite of / despite**:

- Although the traffic was bad,** / **In spite of the traffic,** } we arrived on time. (*not In spite of the traffic was bad*)
- I couldn't sleep { **although I was** very tired. (*not despite I was tired*) / **despite being** very tired.

E

Though is the same as **although**:

- I didn't get the job **though** I had the necessary qualifications.

In spoken English we often use **though** at the end of a sentence:

- The house isn't so nice. I like the garden **though**. (= but I like the garden)
- I see them every day. I've never spoken to them **though**. (= but I've never spoken to them)

Even though (*but not 'even' alone*) is a stronger form of **although**:

- Even though** I was really tired, I couldn't sleep. (*not Even I was really tired ...*)

Exercises

113.1 Complete the sentences. Use **although** + a sentence from the box.

I didn't speak the language well	he has a very important job
I had never seen her before	we don't like them very much
it was quite cold	the heating was on
I'd met her twice before	we've known each other a long time

- 1 Although he has a very important job, he isn't particularly well-paid.
- 2 _____, I recognised her from a photograph.
- 3 She wasn't wearing a coat _____.
- 4 We thought we'd better invite them to the party _____.
- 5 _____, I managed to make myself understood.
- 6 _____, the room wasn't warm.
- 7 I didn't recognise her _____.
- 8 We're not very good friends _____.

113.2 Complete the sentences with **although** / **in spite of** / **because** / **because of**.

- 1 Although it rained a lot, we enjoyed our holiday.
- 2 a _____ all our careful plans, a lot of things went wrong.
b _____ we'd planned everything carefully, a lot of things went wrong.
- 3 a I went home early _____ I was feeling unwell.
b I went to work the next day _____ I was still feeling unwell.
- 4 a She only accepted the job _____ the salary, which was very high.
b She accepted the job _____ the salary, which was rather low.
- 5 a I managed to get to sleep _____ there was a lot of noise.
b I couldn't get to sleep _____ the noise.

Use your own ideas to complete the following sentences:

- 6 a He passed the exam although _____.
b He passed the exam because _____.
- 7 a I didn't eat anything although _____.
b I didn't eat anything in spite of _____.

113.3 Make one sentence from two. Use the word(s) in brackets in your sentences.

- 1 I couldn't sleep. I was very tired. (despite)
I couldn't sleep despite being very tired.
- 2 They have very little money. They are happy. (in spite of)
In spite _____
- 3 My foot was injured. I managed to walk home. (although)

- 4 I enjoyed the film. The story was silly. (in spite of)

- 5 We live in the same street. We hardly ever see each other. (despite)

- 6 I got very wet in the rain. I was only out for five minutes. (even though)

113.4 Use the words in brackets to make a sentence with **though** at the end.

- 1 The house isn't very nice. (like / garden) I like the garden though.
- 2 It's warm today. (very windy) _____
- 3 We didn't like the food. (ate) _____
- 4 Liz is very nice. (don't like / husband) I _____