Although / though / even though
In spite of / despite

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 the rain, they enjoyed it.

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.

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) 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.

Compare although and in spite of / despite:

☐ Although the traffic was bad, 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)

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 ...)

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)
Exercises

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

I didn’t speak the language well
I had never seen her before
it was quite cold
I’d met her twice before

- he has a very important job
- we don’t like them very much
- the heating was on
- we’ve known each other a long time

1. Although ____________, 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 ____________, we enjoyed our holiday.
2. a. all our careful plans, a lot of things went wrong.
   b. ____________, 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 ____________, being very tired.
2. They have very little money. They are happy. (in spite of)
   In spite ____________, they are happy.
3. My foot was injured. I managed to walk home. (although)
   ____________, I managed to walk home.
4. I enjoyed the film. The story was silly. (in spite of)
   ____________, the story was silly.
5. We live in the same street. We hardly ever see each other. (despite)
   ____________, we hardly ever see each other.
6. I got very wet in the rain. I was only out for five minutes. (even though)
   ____________, I was only out for five minutes.

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 ____________.