

Although / though / even though In spite of / despite

A

Study this example situation:



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

You can say:

Although it rained a lot, they enjoyed themselves.
(= It rained a lot, *but* they ...)

or

In spite of } the rain, they enjoyed themselves.
Despite }

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.
- ☐ We didn't go out **because** it was raining.

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 went to work.
- ☐ **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 went to work. (*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, } we arrived on time. (*not In spite of the traffic was bad*)
In spite of the traffic, }

- ☐ I couldn't sleep { **although** I was very tired.
 despite being very tired. (*not despite I was tired*)

E

Sometimes we use **though** instead of **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 very 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

Unit 113

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

I didn't speak the language	~~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 of _____
- 3 My foot was injured. I managed to walk to the nearest village. (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 _____

- 8 He didn't even tell his wife (where he was going).
 9 I don't even know the people next door.

112.3

- 2 even older
 3 even better
 4 even more difficult
 5 even worse
 6 even less

112.4

- 2 if
 3 even if
 4 even
 5 even though
 6 Even
 7 even though
 8 even if
 9 Even though

UNIT 113**113.1**

- 2 Although I had never seen her before
 3 although it was quite cold
 4 although we don't like them very much
 5 Although I didn't speak the language
 6 Although the heating was on
 7 although I'd met her twice before
 8 although we've known each other a long time

113.2

- 2 a In spite of (or Despite)
 b Although
 3 a because
 b although
 4 a because of
 b in spite of (or despite)
 5 a although
 b because of

Example answers:

- 6 a he hadn't studied very hard
 b he had studied very hard
 7 a I was hungry
 b being hungry / my hunger / the fact (that) I was hungry

113.3

- 2 In spite of having very little money, they are happy. *or* In spite of the fact (that) they have very little money ...
 3 Although my foot was injured, I managed to walk to the nearest village. *or* I managed to walk to the nearest village although my ...

- 4 I enjoyed the film in spite of the silly story. / ... in spite of the story being silly. / ... in spite of the fact (that) the story was silly. *or* In spite of ... , I enjoyed the film.
 5 Despite living in the same street, we hardly ever see each other. *or* Despite the fact (that) we live in ... *or* We hardly ever see each other despite ...
 6 Even though I was only out for five minutes, I got very wet in the rain. *or* I got very wet in the rain even though I was ...

113.4

- 2 It's very windy though.
 3 We ate it though.
 4 I don't like her husband though.

UNIT 114**114.1**

- 2-5 Take a map with you in case you get lost.
 Take an anorak with you in case it rains.
 Take a camera with you in case you want to take some photographs.
 Take some water with you in case you're thirsty. *or* ... you get thirsty.

114.2

- 2 I'll say goodbye now in case I don't see you again (before you go).
 3 Can you check the list in case we've forgotten something? *or* ... forgotten anything?
 4 You should back up your files in case the computer crashes.

114.3

- 2 He wrote down the name (of the book) in case he forgot it.
 3 I phoned my parents in case they were worried (about me).
 4 I sent (Liz) another email in case she hadn't received the first one.
 5 I gave them my address in case they came to London (one day).

114.4

- 3 If
 4 if
 5 in case
 6 if
 7 if
 8 in case
 9 in case

UNIT 115**115.1**

- 2 You won't know what to do unless you listen carefully.
 3 I'll never speak to her again unless she apologises to me. *or* Unless she apologises to me, I'll ...
 4 He won't be able to understand you unless you speak very slowly. *or* Unless you speak very slowly, he ...
 5 The company will have to close unless business improves soon. *or* Unless business improves soon, the company ...

115.2

- 2 I'm not going (to the party) unless you go too.
 3 The dog won't attack you unless you move suddenly.
 4 Ben won't speak to you unless you ask him something.
 5 The doctor won't see you unless it's an emergency.

115.3

- 2 unless
 3 providing
 4 as long as
 5 unless
 6 unless
 7 provided
 8 Unless
 9 unless
 10 as long as

115.4*Example answers:*

- 2 it's not too hot
 3 there isn't too much traffic
 4 it isn't raining
 5 I'm in a hurry
 6 you have something else to do
 7 you pay it back next week
 8 you take risks

UNIT 116**116.1**

- 2 We all smiled as we posed for the photograph.
 3 I burnt myself as I was taking a hot dish out of the oven.
 4 The crowd cheered as the two teams ran onto the field.
 5 A dog ran out in front of the car as we were driving along the road.

116.2

- 2 As it was a nice day, we went for a walk by the sea.
 3 As we didn't want to wake anybody up, we came in very quietly.