

CONTRAST CLAUSES

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Link contrasting facts with clauses or noun/-ing phrases.

1. READ: An outdoor market

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Fay: Was the market worth visiting in that weather?

Dan: Yes. **Although it was raining**, most of the stalls were open.

Fay: Did many people turn up?

Dan: Quite a few, **despite the rain**. The food stalls were especially busy.

Fay: Did you stay long?

Dan: Two hours. **Even though I was cold**, I stayed for the music **in spite of getting** soaked.

2. GRAMMAR: A full clause or a phrase

Although/even though introduce subject + verb; despite/in spite of introduce a noun or -ing phrase.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Clause	although / even though + clause	Although it rained, we went.
Phrase	despite + noun / -ing	Despite the rain, we went.
Phrase	in spite of + noun / -ing	In spite of being cold, I stayed.

More emphatic: even though highlights an unexpected contrast.

Don't normally add but to the same although sentence.

Full clause after despite: despite the fact that it was raining.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. Although / Despite it was cold, we stayed.

2. Despite / Although the rain, we went.

3. In spite of be / being tired, I stayed.

4. Even though he was / being late, he joined us.

5. Despite / Despite of the cost, I booked.

6. Although it rained, we went / but we went.

7. In spite / In spite of the noise, I slept.

8. Despite the fact that / despite that it rained, we stayed.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: An outing in poor weather

Choose the connector or write the appropriate -ing/verb form.

1. _____ (Although / Despite) the rain, the market stayed open.
2. _____ (Although / Despite) it was cold, many people came.
3. In spite of _____ (get) wet, I stayed for the music.
4. Even though the tickets _____ (be) expensive, we bought them.
5. Despite _____ (feel) tired, Jo stayed until the end.
6. In spite _____ (of / -) the weather, everyone had a good time.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite using despite.

Example: Although I was tired, I went. **Despite being tired, I went.**

1. Although it rained, we went. _____
2. Although I was ill, I worked. _____

3-4: Rewrite using although. Example: Despite the rain, we went. **Although it rained, we went.**

3. Despite being tired, she helped. _____
4. Despite the noise, I slept. _____

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three unexpected contrasts. Use a full clause once and a noun/-ing phrase twice.

Example: **Although it was busy, we found seats. Despite being tired, we stayed.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Discuss an outing or decision with both benefits and difficulties.

Explain why you enjoyed it or continued, using **although**, **despite** and **in spite of**.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: An outdoor market

Sample target language from the conversation:

Dan: Yes. **Although it was raining**, most of the stalls were open.

Dan: Quite a few, **despite the rain**. The food stalls were especially busy.

Dan: Two hours. **Even though I was cold**, I stayed for the music **in spite of getting** soaked.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Although | 2. Despite |
| 3. being | 4. he was |
| 5. Despite | 6. we went |
| 7. In spite of | 8. Despite the fact that |

B. COMPLETE: An outing in poor weather

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. Despite | 2. Although |
| 3. getting | 4. were |
| 5. feeling | 6. of |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. Despite the rain, we went.
2. Despite being ill, I worked.
3. Although she was tired, she helped.
4. Although it was noisy, I slept.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: Although it rained, we went out. Despite the crowds, we enjoyed it. In spite of getting wet, we stayed for hours.

Teacher note: Preserve the subject when changing a clause to an -ing phrase. Accept despite the fact that + clause, but do not teach despite of.