

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 had a good time.

You can say:

Although it rained a lot, they had a good time.
(= It rained a lot, but they ...)

or

In spite of } the rain, they had a good time.
Despite }

B

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

- ☐ **Although it rained** a lot, they had a good time.
- ☐ I didn't apply for 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 had a good time.
- ☐ She wasn't well, but **in spite of this** she continued working.
- ☐ **In spite of what** I said yesterday, I still love you.
- ☐ I didn't apply for the job **in spite of having** the necessary qualifications.

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 apply for 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

though = although:

- ☐ I didn't apply for 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 similar to **although**:

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