

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*)

Exercises

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

I didn't speak the language well	she 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 she has a very important job, she isn't well-paid.
- 2, I recognised her from a photo.
- 3 Sarah wasn't wearing a coat
- 4 We decided to 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 close friends

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

- 1 Although it rained a lot, we had a good time.
- 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 Chris only accepted the job the salary, which was very high.
b Sam accepted the job the salary, which was rather low.
- 5 a there was a lot of noise, I slept quite well.
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 much although
- b I didn't eat much 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 We played quite well. We lost the game. (in spite of)
In spite of
- 3 I'd hurt my foot. I managed to walk home. (although)
.....
- 4 I enjoyed the film. The story was silly. (in spite of)
.....
- 5 We live in the same building. We hardly ever see each other. (despite)
.....
- 6 They came to the party. They hadn't been invited. (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 I enjoyed reading the book. (very long)
- 3 We didn't like the food. (ate)
- 4 Laura is very nice. (don't like / husband) I