

# 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 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.  
**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 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 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.  
                                  **despite the fact (that)** }

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. (*not despite I was tired*)  
                                  **despite being** very tired.

E

**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)

**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 ...*)



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

I didn't speak the language well	<del>he has a very important job</del>
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 My foot was injured. I managed to walk home. (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 \_\_\_\_\_