

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 / **Despite** the rain, they enjoyed themselves.

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, |
| } | In spite of the traffic, |

 we arrived on time. (*not* In spite of the traffic was bad)
- 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

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
- 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