

# Although / though / even though In spite of / despite

**A**

Study this example situation:



Last year Jack and Jill spent their vacation at the beach. 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 vacation.
- I didn't get the job **although** I was extremely qualified.

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 vacation.
- I didn't get the job **in spite of** being extremely qualified.
- She felt sick, 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**. Note that we say **in spite of** but **despite** (*without of*):

- She felt sick, 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 was extremely qualified.

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, } I 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 all 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 him every day. I've never spoken to him **though**. (= but I've never spoken to him)

**Even though** (*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

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

I didn't speak the language	<del>he has a very important job</del>
I had never seen her before	we don't like them very much
it was pretty cold	the heat was on
I'd met her twice before	we've known each other for a long time

1. *Although he has a very important job* \_\_\_\_\_, he isn't particularly well paid.
2. \_\_\_\_\_, I recognized her from a picture.
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 very warm.
7. I didn't recognize her \_\_\_\_\_.
8. We're not very good friends \_\_\_\_\_.

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

1. *Although* \_\_\_\_\_ it rained a lot, we enjoyed our vacation.
2. a) \_\_\_\_\_ all our careful plans, a lot of things went wrong.  
b) \_\_\_\_\_ we had planned everything carefully, a lot of things went wrong.
3. a) I went home early \_\_\_\_\_ I was feeling sick.  
b) I went to work the next day \_\_\_\_\_ I was still feeling sick.
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 \_\_\_\_\_.

## 109.3. Make one sentence from two. Use the word(s) in parentheses in your sentences.

1. I couldn't sleep. I was tired. (despite) *I couldn't sleep despite being tired.*
2. They have very little money. They are happy. (in spite of)  
In spite of \_\_\_\_\_.
3. My foot was injured. I managed to walk to the nearest town. (although)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. We live on the same street. We hardly ever see each other. (despite)  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. I got very wet in the rain. I had an umbrella. (even though)  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## 109.4. Use the words in parentheses 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 pretty warm. (a little windy) \_\_\_\_\_.
3. We didn't like the food. (ate) \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Liz is very nice. (don't like / husband) I \_\_\_\_\_.