Expressing Contrast

**Although, though**

• *Although* is used to introduce a contrasting clause. This is a second statement which contrasts with the first statement.

  *Maria went to school *although* she was ill.*
  *Although* she was ill, Maria went to school.

• *Although* is often emphasized by expressions such as *still, anyway* and *all the same.*

  *Maria still went to school, *although* she was ill.*
  *Although* she was ill, Maria went to school *anyway/all the same.*

• *Even though* is used to emphasize the contrast.

  *Even though* she felt very ill, Maria went to school.

• *Though* is used in speech and informal writing. In these contexts, the two clauses are often made into two sentences, and *though* is put at the end.

  *Maria went to school. She was ill, *though.*

**while and whereas**

*While* and *whereas* can often be used in formal speech and writing instead of *although.*

*While/Whereas* some experts the Government to win the election, most believe that the opposition will win.

**despite**

• *Despite* is used to introduce a contrasting clause. It is always followed by a noun phrase, or the verbal form of the noun (-ing). It cannot be followed by a main verb.

  *Despite her illness,* Maria went school.
  *Despite being ill,* Maria went to school.

• Note that we cannot say:

  * *Despite she felt ill,* Maria went to school.*
  *(incorrect sentence)*
**In spite of**

* In spite of is used to introduce a contrasting clause. It is always followed by a noun phrase, or the verbal form of the noun (-ing). It cannot be followed by a main verb.

* In spite of her illness, Maria went to school.
* In spite of being ill, Maria went to school.

* Note that we cannot say:

* In spite of she felt ill, Maria went to school.
  (incorrect sentence)

**However**

* However introduces or completes a contrasting sentence. However always has punctuation before and after. However is more common in formal speech and writing.

* Maria was ill. However, she went to school.
* Maria went to school. She was ill, however.

* Note that we cannot say:

* However she was ill, Maria went to school.
  (incorrect sentence)

**But and Yet**

* The most common kind of contrast is made with **but**.

* Maria felt ill, **but** she went to school.

* But is often emphasized by expressions such as **still**, **anyway** and **all the same**.

* Maria felt ill, but she went to school **anyway/all the same**.
* Maria felt ill, but she still went to school.

* Yet can be used instead of **but** in formal speech and writing.

* Maria felt ill, **yet** she went to school.

**On the other hand**

* On the other hand introduces a contrasting opinion. It is usually used in formal speech and writing.

* Television has many advantages. It keep us informed about the latest news, and also provides entertainment in the home.
* On the other hand, television has been blamed for the violent behavior of some young people, and for encouraging children to sit indoors, instead of taking exercise.
Practice

1. Choose the correct word for phrase underlined in each sentence.

I read the book you suggested. I didn’t enjoy it, although / however

a) In spite of / Although we warned him, Harry still got lost.

b) Although / However I like it here, I won’t stay here long.

c) Cars are fast and convenient. On the other hand / Whereas, they cause traffic
   problems in cities.

d) I didn’t have much time, but / however I managed to visit lots of places.

e) Kate won the race, although / despite falling over.

f) Although / In spite of the delay, the train arrived on time.

g) I didn’t manage to jump over the wall, although / yet I tried twice.

2. Put one suitable word in each space.

a) Although Tim felt tired, he stayed up to finish his homework.

b) Alan didn’t enjoy skating __________________ he went with his friends all the same.

c) I found French hard at first __________________, I soon started to enjoy it.

d) Jane kept running, __________________ though she knew she couldn’t win.

e) Mike was lost, but he __________________ refused to look at the map.

f) Carol went to see the film, __________________ she had seen it before.

g) __________________ the rain, the school sports were a great success.

h) Hellen won the swimming competition, in __________________ of her cold.

i) I’m not sure I agree with you __________________, your ideas are worth discussing.

j) Tony was short of money, but he __________________ lent some to his sister.
3. Complete the second sentence beginning as shown, so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

a) Although it was snowing, we went out for a walk.
   Despite the snow, we went out for a walk.

b) Some experts think the world is growing warmer, but others disagree.
   While _________________________________________________________.

c) I don’t enjoy rock music, but I went to the concert anyway.
   Although _________________________________________________________.

d) Even though they were losing at half-time, City won in the end.
   Despite _________________________________________________________.

e) Despite the heat, Diana wore her winter clothes.
   Although _________________________________________________________.

f) Whereas prices rose last year, this year they have gone down.
   Prices rose last year ________________________________________________.

g) Jim had a headache, but he still read until late.
   In spite of _________________________________________________________.

h) Although Sam hadn’t studied, he did well in the test.
   Sam hadn’t studied ________________________________________________.