

Subordinating Conjunctions (Contrast & Concession)

Clauses of Contrast are dependent clauses used to describe conditions or events that are different than expected. *Although, even though, though, despite, in spite of, while, and whereas* and are commonly used to link sentences for showing a contrast.

- *Although it rained a lot, they had a good time.*
- *Even though I was really tired, I couldn't sleep.*
- *We enjoyed the movie although/ even though/ though it was long.*
- *In spite of being 85, she still travels all over the world.*
- *Despite her age, she's really active.*
- *While there was no conclusive evidence, most people thought he was guilty.*
- *The old system was fairly complicated, whereas the new system is very simple.*

i. *Although, even though, though*

These are common for making a contrast. We usually use *though* in middle of the sentence. **Even though** is more emphatic than *although*. **Though** is more common in informal speech.

- I didn't apply for the job **though** I had the necessary qualifications.
- **Even though** I was really tired, I couldn't sleep.
- **Although** the traffic was awful, we arrived on time.

ii. *Despite, in spite of*

After **in spite of** or **despite** we use a gerund, a noun, or **the fact that** + clause

- **In spite of** *the rain*, we had a good time.
- **Despite** *the terrible economic condition*, I could afford to buy a new car.
- I didn't apply for the job **in spite of** *having the necessary qualifications*.
- I didn't apply for the job **in spite of the fact (that)** *I had the necessary qualifications*.

Warning:

We don't usually use a comma for these words when they're in the middle of the sentence. Only when we start the sentence.



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IELTS

iii. *While, whereas*

These are other linkers for this purpose:

- **While** I like all types of fish, my girlfriend always chooses meat dishes when we go out.
- Some married couples argue all time, **whereas** others never do.

Warning:

If you're using “**while**” to mean “although” or “whereas,” you **need a comma**.

Example: “**While**” meaning “**whereas**”

- *Some people enjoy traveling, **while** others prefer to stay home.*

Generally, a comma always belongs before **whereas**.

- *The old system was fairly complicated, **whereas** the new system is very simple.*

Using a comma with subordinating conjunctions:

- *I thought it was an amazing movie. It was really depressing, **though**.*
- *Susanna is an only child **even though** she isn't at all spoiled.*
- ***In spite of** our seats, we enjoyed the show.*
- ***Although** it rained a lot, they had a good time.*
- *Sam accepted the job **in spite of** the salary, which was rather low.*
- *He loves foreign holidays, **whereas** his wife prefers to stay at home.*
- ***While** I like all types of fish, my girlfriend always chooses meat dishes when we go out.*

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