

# Adverb Clauses of Contrast

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## Grammar Notes

### INTRODUCTION TO ADVERB CLAUSES

Adverb clauses provide extra information to a sentence about *time, place, purpose, contrast*, etc. A clause always includes a subject (S) and a verb (V) that shows tense and agreement.

Adverb clauses are *dependent clauses*, meaning they cannot stand alone. Adverb clauses usually modify an *independent clause* (i.e., the main clause) of a sentence.

## Adverb Clauses of Contrast

Adverb clauses of contrast are used for **unexpected** situations or **opposite** ideas.

### A. Although, Though & Even Though

*Although, though, and even though* are used in adverb clauses to indicate the action in the independent clause is an **unexpected** result.

An adverb clause with *although, though, and even though* can begin a sentence (with a comma) or follow the independent clause (no comma). There is no difference in meaning between these two sentence patterns.

#	Pattern	Examples
1	<u>although/though/even though + S + V</u> , <u>S + V</u> <i>dependent clause</i> <i>independent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Although</b> it was raining, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> <li>• <b>Though</b> it was raining, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> <li>• <b>Even though</b> it was raining, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> </ul>
2	<u>S + V</u> <u>although/though/even though + S + V</u> <i>independent clause</i> <i>dependent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>although</b> it was raining.</li> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>though</b> it was raining.</li> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>even though</b> it was raining.</li> </ul>

#### Note #1

*Although, though, and even though* are basically interchangeable, but *even though* often emphasizes that a situation is unexpected.

- She didn't call me back **even though** I called her 100 times!

#### Note #2

Unlike *although* and *even though*, we can use *though* at the end of an independent clause.

- It was raining. I didn't bring an umbrella, **though**.

## Adverb Clauses of Contrast cont.

### B. While & Whereas

*While* and *whereas* are used in adverb clauses to introduce an **opposite** idea in the independent clause.

An adverb clause with *while* and *whereas* can begin a sentence or follow the independent clause. Both cases require a comma. There is no difference in meaning between these two sentence patterns.

#	Pattern	Examples
1	<u>while/whereas + S + V</u> , <u>S + V</u> <i>dependent clause</i> <i>independent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>While</b> Victor is a pessimist, Maria is an optimist.</li> <li>• <b>Whereas</b> Victor is a pessimist, Maria is an optimist.</li> </ul>
2	<u>S + V</u> , <u>while/whereas + S + V</u> <i>independent clause</i> <i>dependent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria is an optimist, <b>while</b> Victor is a pessimist.</li> <li>• Maria is an optimist, <b>whereas</b> Victor is a pessimist.</li> </ul>

#### Note #3

In adverb clauses of contrast, *while* and *whereas* have the same meaning. Note that *while* is more common than *whereas* (especially when the adverb clause begins the sentence). *Whereas* is slightly more formal.

#### Note #4

*While* is also used in adverb clauses of time. In those clauses, *while* indicates that two actions happened at the same time. Unlike adverb clauses of contrast, a comma is incorrect after an independent clause when it's followed by an adverb clause of time.

- **While** I was driving, we were singing along to the radio.
- We were singing along to the radio **while** I was driving.

## Adverb Clauses of Contrast cont.

### C. Despite & In Spite Of

Though phrases with *despite* and *in spite of* are **not** adverb clauses, they are often taught along with adverb clauses of contrast because they are used to indicate the same type of unexpected situation.

*Despite* and *in spite of* are interchangeable, and they have the same meaning as *although*, *though*, and *even though*—they are used to introduce an unexpected result. These prepositions have four possible patterns.

#	Pattern	Examples
1	<u>despite/in spite of + the fact + that + S + V</u> , S + V <i>dependent clause</i> <i>independent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Despite</b> the fact that it was raining, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> <li>• <b>In spite of</b> the fact that it was raining, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> </ul>
2	S + V <u>despite/in spite of + the fact + that + S + V</u> <i>independent clause</i> <i>dependent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>despite</b> the fact that it was raining.</li> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>in spite of</b> the fact that it was raining.</li> </ul>
3	<u>despite/in spite of + noun/gerund</u> , S + V <i>prepositional phrase</i> <i>independent clause</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Despite</b> the rain, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> <li>• <b>In spite of</b> the rain, I didn't bring an umbrella.</li> <li>• <b>Despite</b> falling off a ladder, I didn't hurt myself.</li> <li>• <b>In spite of</b> falling off a ladder, I didn't hurt myself.</li> </ul>
4	S + V <u>despite/in spite of + noun/gerund</u> <i>independent clause</i> <i>prepositional phrase</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>despite</b> the rain.</li> <li>• I didn't bring an umbrella <b>in spite of</b> the rain.</li> <li>• I didn't hurt myself <b>despite</b> falling off a ladder.</li> <li>• I didn't hurt myself <b>in spite of</b> falling off a ladder.</li> </ul>

#### Note #5

*Despite* and *in spite of* are prepositions, which is why they are followed by a noun or gerund. In formal situations, the noun "fact" can also be followed by an adjective clause (that + S + V) to form a dependent clause: *despite/in spite of the fact that* + S + V.

#### Note #6

The phrase *despite/in spite of the fact that* is quite formal. We normally only use it in formal speaking and writing.



## Exercise 2

### INDEPENDENT CLAUSES

Complete the sentences with an independent clause that is unexpected or surprising.

Ex. Even though Keiko was tired from a long hike, *she studied until 3:00 am last night.*

1. Although Han Jin weighs only 82 pounds (37 kg), \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Though it was over 100 degrees Fahrenheit (38°C), \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Even though Ms. Hanbury is a very strict professor, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Despite the fact that Omar never studied music, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Though Inge does not come from Russia, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in spite of the fact that she did not read the book.
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ although they are a much better team.
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ even though it is 200 miles (322 km) away.
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ despite the fact that she is relatively unknown.
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ although he was not the best worker in the company.

## Exercise 3

### PAIR WORK

With a partner, take turns talking about unexpected results. Make a sentence using a topic prompt and vary the contrast word or phrase you use each time. Then ask a follow-up question to continue the conversation.

Ex. A: I called my friend last night **even though** we had had an **argument** earlier in the day.

B: What were you fighting about?

A: She borrowed my jacket last week, but she hasn't given it back yet.

B: That would make me angry too. Last week, I felt **tired** every day **despite** getting lots of sleep.

A: Really? That's surprising. Were you sick?

#### Topic Prompts

- argument
- work
- rain
- weather
- allergies
- money
- spiders
- promotion
- hot
- cold
- allergies
- sick
- tired
- happy
- excited

#### Contrast Words & Phrases

- although
- though
- even though
- despite
- despite the fact that
- in spite of
- in spite of the fact that
- while
- whereas

## Exercise 4

### OPPOSITES

#### A. Chart

Look at the information about these two sisters.

<b>Marcia</b>	<b>Hilda</b>
31 years old	26 years old
single	married
2 dogs	1 cat
modern house	old house
close to work	far from work
tall	short
outgoing	shy
pessimist	optimist

#### B. Sentences

Write eight sentences comparing the two sisters using *while* or *whereas*.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_



## Exercise 5

### FIND THE ERROR

Look for errors in meaning, sentence structure, and punctuation in the following sentences.  
Rewrite a correct sentence on the line.

Ex. Although Ashraf doesn't eat much he is thin.

*Although Ashraf eats a lot, he is thin.*

---

1. Though the meeting was scheduled for 9:00 am sharp everyone arrived at 9:15.

---

2. I couldn't get to work on time, despite the heavy snow.

---

3. The course is difficult in spite of the fact that the teacher is not good.

---

4. Although she has passed all the examinations for her degree in medicine.

---

5. Greta plays well even though she studied music for 11 years.

---

6. In spite of the fact that it was raining, the picnic was canceled.

---

7. While Jill is cheap, her brother is also cheap.

---

8. Kevin got a low grade in spite of the fact that he did not study.

---

9. Maya lives in an apartment whereas Barbara is shy.

---

10. In spite of the fact that the sign said no trespassing.

---

## Exercise 6

### DEPENDENT CLAUSES

Complete the sentences with dependent clauses that use one of the contrast words or phrases you learned in this lesson. Remember to watch your punctuation.

Ex. Hiro read until 2:00 am *even though he was tired from a long day at work.* \_\_\_\_\_

1. We were late for the party \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Olivia failed her nursing exam \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. There was a big storm \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. They started the meeting early \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Mr. Park called me back \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Juan lives close to school.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I needed some help.

8. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Hans cleaned his apartment.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Raphael is an excellent worker.

10. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ she was broke.



## Exercise 8

### QUIZ




Circle the correct answer.

- \_\_\_\_\_ Takashi lives far from Keiko, he sees her every weekend.
  - Although
  - Despite
  - Whereas
- Amy doesn't speak Vietnamese well \_\_\_\_\_ she lived in Hanoi for six years.
  - even though
  - in spite of
  - while
- \_\_\_\_\_ the interesting lecture topic, Marcus fell asleep.
  - Although
  - Despite
  - While
- Ken lives in a big city, \_\_\_\_\_ Jeffrey lives in a small town.
  - even though
  - in spite of
  - whereas
- \_\_\_\_\_ it is located right in the middle of Europe, Switzerland did not participate in World War II.
  - Though
  - Despite
  - Whereas
- \_\_\_\_\_ the \$1,400 price tag, Carla bought that purse for her mother.
  - Even though
  - In spite of
  - While
- People love to walk in the parks in this city \_\_\_\_\_ the fact that the winters are very cold.
  - although
  - despite
  - while
- Curtis has few friends \_\_\_\_\_ he is good-looking and rich.
  - even though
  - in spite of
  - whereas
- \_\_\_\_\_ my coworker is quiet, I am very talkative at work.
  - In spite of
  - Despite
  - While
- \_\_\_\_\_ the food was terrible, Fatima ate everything on her plate.
  - Though
  - In spite of
  - Whereas
- I went to bed late \_\_\_\_\_ being really tired.
  - although
  - despite
  - while
- People still visit the old part of the city \_\_\_\_\_ the area is very dangerous.
  - even though
  - in spite of
  - whereas

## Grammar Assessment

Student / Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Level	Assessed By	Target	Skill
			Adverb Clauses of Contrast / Contrast Words & Phrases	Grammar

Criteria	Achieved 	Achieved with Help 	Needs Improvement 
comprehends the meaning of different contrast words and phrases			
knows how to punctuate dependent clauses correctly			
forms adverb clauses correctly in writing			
uses different contrast words and phrases correctly in speaking			

**Notes**




# Self-Assessment

## ADVERB CLAUSES OF CONTRAST

Add check marks (✓) to show what you've learned in this lesson.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Can I...	Yes (very well) 	Yes (with help) 	Not yet 
understand the meaning of a variety of contrast words and phrases?			
write and punctuate adverb clauses correctly?			
use different contrast words and phrases correctly in speaking?			

**My Notes**

# Answer Key

### LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students learn how dependent clauses can introduce an unexpected or opposite result. Students review five common adverb clauses as well as expressions with *despite* and *in spite of*.

**LEVEL:** High Int

**TIME:** 2–3 hours

**TAGS:** adverb clauses, contrast, opposites, although, though, even though, while, whereas, despite, in spite of, dependent clauses, commas, comma placement, sentence position, assessment, complex sentences, grammar, grammar practice exercises

## Exercise 1

1. While my father loves spicy food, my mother hates it.
2. Although Tyrone runs very slowly, he is an excellent defender in soccer.
3. (No comma required.)
4. Rosa loves opera, whereas Jorge finds it boring.
5. While Ena always gets high grades, Lee never gets more than a C.
6. (No comma required.)
7. Though my neighbors drive an old truck, they are rich.
8. In spite of the fact that Barcelona played a better game, they lost 1–0.
9. Viktor is always happy, while his sister is often sad.
10. (No comma required.)

## Exercise 2

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct adverb clause formation and punctuation.

## Exercise 3

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct adverb clause formation. Encourage them to practice trying out different contrast words and phrases. If you wish, you could have them write out some of their partner's sentences in their notebooks.

## Exercise 4

Answers will vary. Encourage your students to vary beginning their sentences with a dependent or independent clause.

## Exercise 5

Answers will vary. Here are some suggested answers:

1. Though the meeting was scheduled for 9:00 am sharp, everyone arrived at 9:15.
2. I **got** to work on time despite the heavy snow.  
**(comma removed)**
3. The course is difficult in spite of the fact that the teacher **is** good.
4. Although she has passed all the examinations for her degree in medicine, **she couldn't get a job at the hospital.**
5. Greta **doesn't play** well even though she studied music for 11 years.
6. In spite of the fact that it was raining, the picnic **wasn't** canceled.
7. While Jill is cheap, her brother is **a big spender.**
8. Kevin got a low grade in spite of the fact that he **studied hard.**
9. Maya lives in an apartment, whereas Barbara **lives in a house.**
10. In spite of the fact that the sign said no trespassing, **we entered the building.**

*(continued on the next page...)*

## Answer Key cont.

### Exercise 6

Answers will vary. Monitor your students for correct adverb clause formation and punctuation.

### Exercise 7

Answers will vary.

### Exercise 8

- |      |      |      |      |       |       |
|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 1. a | 3. b | 5. a | 7. b | 9. c  | 11. b |
| 2. a | 4. c | 6. b | 8. a | 10. a | 12. a |

### Grammar Assessment

Use this tool for assessment purposes. Find Assessment Tools that you can personalize in our Resources section: [https://esllibrary.com/resource\\_categories/104/resources/2352](https://esllibrary.com/resource_categories/104/resources/2352)

### Self-Assessment

Have your students fill out this form.

#### SPELLING NOTE:

This lesson shows the American spelling of the words *Canceled* and *Neighbors*. Most other English-speaking countries spell these words this way: *Cancelled* and *Neighbours*. Make it a challenge for your students to find these words in the lesson and see if they know the alternate spellings.