

Contrast Connectors Exercises

Level: B1

Choose a connector that fits what follows

In the full-clause pattern taught here, *although* introduces a subject and verb. *Despite* introduces a noun or an *-ing* form. *However* connects separate statements. English also allows reduced *although* clauses in some contexts.

Although + clause: *Although it was raining, we went out.* In this standard pattern, the words after *although* include a subject and verb.

Despite + noun: *Despite the rain, we went out.* A noun phrase follows *despite*.

Despite + -ing: *Despite feeling tired, she finished the race.* An *-ing* phrase can follow *despite*.

However + sentence: *It was raining. However, we went out.* *However* introduces a contrasting statement here.

Do not add of: Use *despite the rain*, not *despite of the rain*. *In spite of* is another correct expression, but it has three words.

Exercise 1: Choose the connector

Choose the connector that fits the grammar and punctuation of the sentence.

1. ___ it was raining, we walked to school.
a) Although b) Despite c) However
2. ___ the rain, we walked to school.
a) Although b) Despite c) However
3. The train was late. ___, we arrived on time.
a) Although b) Despite c) However
4. ___ her tiredness, she kept working.
a) Although b) Despite c) However
5. ___ he was nervous, he spoke clearly.
a) Although b) Despite c) However
6. The room was small. ___, everyone found a seat.
a) Although b) Despite c) However

Exercise 2: Complete the contrast

Write *although*, *despite* or *however*. Use the clause, noun phrase or punctuation as your clue.

7. ___ she was tired, she finished the report. (followed by a full clause)
8. ___ the noise, I slept well. (followed by a noun phrase)
9. The road was closed. ___, we found another route. (starts a new contrasting sentence)

10. ___ the long day at work, he still had energy. (followed by a noun phrase)
11. ___ the shop was busy, the service was quick. (followed by a full clause)
12. It was cold. ___, we went swimming. (starts a new contrasting sentence)

Exercise 3: Fix the connector

Replace the incorrect connector with the one that fits the following words. Keep the rest of the sentence.

13. Despite it was raining, we went out.

14. Although the rain, we went out.

15. The route was long. Despite, we arrived early.

16. Although of her nerves, she gave the speech.

17. Despite of the delay, we arrived on time.

18. The task was hard. Although, we finished it.

Answer key

Exercise 1: Choose the connector

1. a) Although
2. b) Despite
3. c) However
4. b) Despite
5. a) Although
6. c) However

Exercise 2: Complete the contrast

7. although
8. despite
9. however
10. despite
11. although
12. however

Exercise 3: Fix the connector

13. Although it was raining, we went out.
14. Despite the rain, we went out.
15. The route was long. However, we arrived early.
16. Despite her nerves, she gave the speech.
17. Despite the delay, we arrived on time.
18. The task was hard. However, we finished it.