

## Unit 6: Concessive Clauses (contrast)

### 0.0 General Use

- Used to show contrast between two statements or circumstances.
- The circumstance in the main clause is generally surprising, unexpected or shocking in contrast to the statement made in the concessive clause.

### 1.0 Conjunction + Finite Clause

- Remember: A finite clause is one that conveys time information through use of a tense in the verb. E.g. Past, Present, Future or Conditional Tense.
- Finite clauses are generally introduced using one of the following conjunctions: **“although”, “though” [informal], “even though” [more emphatic], “while”, “whilst” [formal]**

Eg1.1 **Although** I am a qualified Engineer, I work as an English teacher.

Eg1.2 **While** I struggle to speak Portuguese, I understand quite a bit.

#### 1.1 Whereas

- “Whereas” is a conjunction which contrasts equivalent ideas and therefore doesn’t imply the same degree of surprise as other conjunctions, if any.
- It is quite a formal.

Eg1.3 Normal mangos are quite sweet **whereas** green mangos are bitter.

#### 1.2 Condition + Contrast

- Uses conjunctions such as: **“even if”, “whether... or...(not)”, “whether or not ...”**

Eg1.4 I eat Cheetos all the time **even if** I’m not hungry.

Eg1.5a I eat Cheetos all the time **whether** I’m hungry **or not**.

Eg1.5b I eat Cheetos all the time **whether or not** I’m hungry.

Eg1.6 You will need to apply for a visa three months in advance **whether** you decide to go to Bolivia on holidays **or** to Peru.

### 1.3 Other Finite Constructions

- Uses phrases like: **“Much as...”** and **“strange as...”**
- **“Much as...”** and **“strange as...”** convey a similar meaning to **“although/even though”**



Eg1.7 **Much as** I really enjoyed my time in Syria, I couldn't live there.

[Even though I really enjoyed my time in Syria, I couldn't live there.]

Eg1.8 **Strange as it may seem** he's only been learning Spanish for a couple of weeks.

[Even though it may seem strange, he's only been learning Spanish for a couple of weeks.]

### 2.0 Conjunction + Verbless Clause

- Sentences which use these concessive clauses can be quite formal or literary.
- The verb and subject of the concessive clause can be omitted when the subject of the concessive clause and the subject of the main clause are the same and the verb in the concessive clause is “to be”.



Eg2.1 **Although** (he was) unable to find the bar he wanted to go to, he knew it was in this neighbourhood.



### 3.0 Preposition + Noun or Gerund (-ing)

- Uses conjunctions: **“in spite of”** and **“despite”**.
- Concessive conjunction phrases that are commonly heard and often collocate together are **“In spite of the fact that”** and **“despite the fact that”**. These can get around the “noun/gerund” rule and can take a finite clause.

Eg3.1 He performed excellently on stage **in spite of** his cold.

Eg3.2 **Despite** feeling ill he went to work every day this week.

Eg3.3 **In spite of the fact that** he can't stand cheese, he really loves pizza.