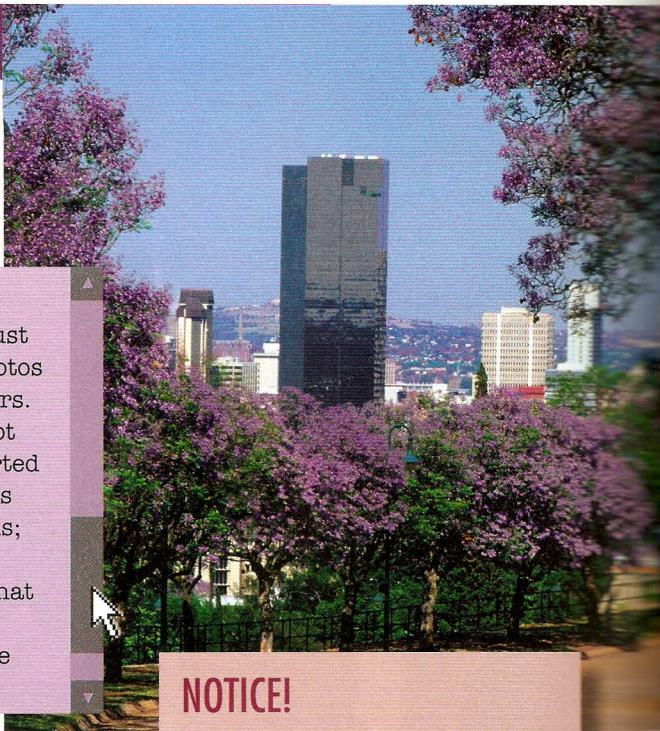


GRAMMAR: connectors of contrast

A LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT Look at the photo. Can you guess which country and city the writer is visiting? Read the extract from a travel blog to check your answer.



I've finally arrived, and I'm feeling OK despite the long flight! The weather is beautiful even though spring is just beginning. Today, I walked around the city and took photos of the jacaranda trees with their beautiful purple flowers. Although Pretoria is full of jacarandas, the trees are not native to South Africa. Just two jacarandas were imported from Rio de Janeiro in 1888, but later many more trees were planted along Pretoria's streets. They are gorgeous; nevertheless, they are a non-native species and some ecologists want to get rid of them. In spite of the fact that the trees are an invasive species, I find myself hoping that they are allowed to stay to continue to enhance the beauty of this attractive city.

NOTICE!

Look at the underlined word in the text. What two ideas are being contrasted in this sentence?

B ANALYSE Read the extract in Exercise A again.

Function Answer the question in your own words.

What do we use words like *but*, *nevertheless* and *despite* for? _____

Form Complete the table with connectors from the text. Then answer the questions below.

Position	Examples
beginning of second clause, after a comma	Just two jacarandas were imported from Rio de Janeiro in 1888, (1) _____ later many more trees were planted along Pretoria's streets.
beginning of second clause, after a full stop or semicolon; comma after the connector	They are gorgeous; (2) _____, they are a non-native species ...
beginning of first clause, clause is followed by a comma / beginning of second clause, no comma	(3) _____ Pretoria is full of jacarandas, the trees are not native ... The weather is beautiful (4) _____ spring is just beginning.
beginning of first or second clause, followed by a gerund phrase, noun phrase or the fact that	In spite of / Despite having to work, I'm having a great time. I'm feeling OK (5) _____ the long flight. (6) _____ the trees are an invasive species, I find ...


- 7 Which connectors can go at the beginning of the first or the second clause or phrase? _____
- 8 Which connectors have to go at the beginning of the second clause or phrase? _____

C PRACTISE Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

- 1 In spite of / However the tourist crowds, Rio de Janeiro is an amazing city.
- 2 San Francisco is one of the world's best cities even though / despite it can be very windy!
- 3 But / Although Diane lives in Sydney, she's never been to the Opera House.
- 4 Travelling abroad is expensive. Nevertheless, / Despite, you can find some bargains online.
- 5 Personally, I couldn't live in a city however / though I know it must be exciting.
- 6 My favourite city has to be Delhi, in spite of / but it can be really chaotic!
- 7 Despite / Nevertheless hating the cold, I loved Stockholm.
- 8 But / Even though Alberto speaks Catalan, he's never visited Barcelona.

WHAT'S RIGHT?

- ☐ In spite we got really lost, we had an amazing day.
- ☐ In spite of the fact that we got really lost, we had an amazing day.
- ☐ In spite of getting really lost, we had an amazing day.

A  Work in pairs. Have you ever been to Fez in Morocco? If not, say what you imagine it to be like. Then read the guidebook to see if your ideas were correct. If you have been there, read the guidebook and say whether it describes Fez as you know it.

Fez, founded around 790 AD, is located in the geographical **heart** of Morocco and is also considered by many to be the cultural heart of the country. The main attraction in this ancient **settlement** is the medieval medina, the old **village** at the centre of the city. It has been inhabited since the 10th century and still bustles with crowds of people involved in everything from the spice **trade** to selling street food. The medina of Fez is an important archeological **site** and is the most complete medieval town still in existence. In fact, it is a UNESCO World **Heritage** site. The Fez medina forms a working model of daily life from when civilisation was still young.

A guided tour is the easiest way to tackle Fez, but the brave can take on the narrow **alleys**, risking getting lost and having to haggle with a local to be guided back out. The noise of buying and selling is often interrupted by the cries of mule drivers pushing heavy carts that warn shoppers to get out of the way. The most stunning **views** over the ancient walled city are from the ruined Merenid tombs on a hilltop. From here, it is possible to see some of the magnificent palaces, green-roofed holy places and the Karaouine Mosque. Fez is secretive and shadowy, but captivating and colourful at the same time. It is an important part of world heritage, as well as of the national heritage of Morocco.



B VOCABULARY: DESCRIBING PLACES


Match the nouns in bold in the text with the definitions (1–8).

- 1 the things you can see from a particular place: _____
- 2 the art, buildings or traditions that are important to a country and its history: _____
- 3 the central part of something: _____
- 4 a place where something interesting happened; an important building or other construction: _____
- 5 the activity of buying and selling things: _____
- 6 a very small town: _____
- 7 a place where people have come to live: _____
- 8 small passages between buildings: _____

C VOCABULARY: DESCRIBING PLACES

Complete the noun collocations (1–8) with words from Exercise B. Look back at the text in Exercise A to check. There may be more than one correct answer.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 old / historic / tiny _____ | 5 waterfront / rooftop / stunning _____ |
| 2 coastal / mountain / ancient _____ | 6 religious / cultural / national / world _____ |
| 3 narrow / dark / old _____ | 7 spice / gold / cloth _____ |
| 4 religious / mystical / archeological _____ | 8 cultural / commercial / geographical _____ |

D  Work in groups. Take turns describing a city you know for your group to guess. Use words and phrases from Exercise C where possible.

- A:** This is an ancient city on an island near here.
B: Is it ...?
A: No. It's a coastal city, and it has an important archeological site.

Look at this description of Cork, one of Ireland's main towns. Underline any words or phrases that might be useful for describing your own or any other town.

Cork city is the major metropolis of the south; indeed with a population of about 135,000 it is the second largest city in the Republic. The main business and shopping centre of the town lies on the island created by two channels of the River Lee, with most places within walking distance of the centre. (The buses tend to be overcrowded and the one-way traffic system is fiendishly complicated.) In the hilly area of the city is the famous Shandon Steeple, the bell-tower of St Anne's Church, built on the site of a church destroyed when the city was besieged by the Duke of Marlborough. Back across the River Lee lies the city's cathedral, an imposing 19th century building in the French Gothic style. Cork has two markets. Neither caters specifically for tourists but those who enjoy the atmosphere of a real working market will appreciate their charm. The Crawford Art Gallery is well worth a visit. It regularly mounts adventurous exhibitions by contemporary artists. The fashionable residential districts of Cork city overlook the harbour. There are other residential areas on the outskirts.

Check that you understand the text about Cork by answering the following questions.

- 1 Where is Cork?
- 2 Where is the shopping and business centre of Cork?
- 3 What is Cork's traffic system like?
- 4 What is special about the site of St Anne's Church?
- 5 In what style is the architecture of Cork Cathedral?
- 6 Can you buy souvenirs at the markets?
- 7 Is the Crawford Gallery worth visiting and why?
- 8 Where do Cork people live?

B

The description of Cork comes from a guidebook for tourists. Write sentences about a town of your choice, using the following expressions from the text.

the second/third/fourth ...est
within walking distance of
built on the site
cater for
to overlook
well worth a visit / visiting
a working market/museum/steam
railway/model

the main ... area of the town lies
in the Victorian/Georgian/Classical/
Baroque/French Gothic style
tend to be
whether or not it merits
those who enjoy
on the outskirts
to mount an exhibition
to appreciate the charm