**[When to use “although”, “despite”, “in spite of”, “though”, “even though”](http://chescoern.blogspot.com/2008/12/when-to-use-although-despite-in-spite.html" \o "When to use \“although\”, \“despite\”,  \“in spite of\”, \“though\”, and \“even though\”) , and “however”**

Those words have the same meaning that is to describe the idea of contrast. But there’s a little difference of using them.

* ***Although*** is used before a full sentence.

***Eg: Although*** John has studied hard, his English is not better yet.  
**Note**: John has studied hard is a full sentence that consists of a subject + Verb + object

* ***Despite or in spite of*** is used before a phrase.

***Eg: Despite*** rough weather, John still comes on time. ***In spite of*** rough weather, John still comes on time.

**Note**: Rough weather is a phrase/not a full sentence

Now what if I want to replace “***although***” in the sentence: “Although John has suited hard”? The sentence will be like this:

***Despite the fact*** that John has studied hard, his English is not better yet Or  
***In spite of fact*** that John has studied hard, his English is not better yet.  
**What about “*though*” and “*even though*”?**

***Though*** is used in ***informal***, while ***even though*** is **stronger than *although*** and sometimes, ***even though*** is used when **the condition given is negative** but the **outcome/result is positive**, and although is used in the contrary

eg: ***Even though John hadn't studied, he passed the exam.***

***Although John had studied, he didn’t pass the exam.***

**However**: joins two sentences. It was hard. However, he managed to do it.  
**Although**: joins two clauses. Although it was hard, he managed to do it.  
**Despite/In spite of**: join a noun phrase to the clause. Despite the difficulty, he managed to do it.

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| **Although, even though** | | | |
| We use **although** or **even though** to express a contrast between two clauses or sentences. **Although** and **even though** have a similar meaning to [despite](http://speakspeak.com/resources/english-grammar-rules/various-grammar-rules/despite-in-spite-of).  In spoken English we often use **though** instead of **although**. | | **Even though** he's a millionaire, he lives in a very small flat.He lives in a very small flat, **even though** he's a millionaire.**Although** (**Though**) he's much older than the others, he won the race.He won the race, **although** (**though**) he's much older than the others. | |
| **Even though**, **although** and **though** can be used instead of **despite the fact that** and **in spite of the fact that.** | | **Even though** (**Although**, **Though**) it rained a lot, I enjoyed the holiday.**Despite the fact that** it rained a lot, I enjoyed the holiday. | |
| **Although** and **though** (but NOT 'even though') can also mean 'but' or '[however](http://speakspeak.com/resources/general-english-vocabulary/how-to-use-however)'. [Note the positions of although and though in the examples given.] | | They had waterproofs and umbrellas. **However**, they still got wet. (formal) They had waterproofs and umbrellas, **although** they still got wet. They had waterproofs and umbrellas. They still got wet, **though**. (informal) | |
| **Despite, in spite of** | | | |
| **Despite** and **in spite of** have the same meaning and are prepositions. We use **despite** / **in spite of** to express that something is unexpected or surprising. | **despite** something (noun) **despite** + verb + -ing **despite** the fact that | | ***Despite*** *the heavy traffic, we got there on time.* ***Despite*** *being much older than the others, he won the race.* |
| **Despite** and **in spite of** can be followed by a noun or verb.   They can also be followed by 'the fact that' (less formal). | **despite** something (noun) **despite** + verb + -ing **despite** the fact that **in spite of** something (noun) **in spite of** + verb + -ing **in spite of** the fact that | | ***In spite of*** */* ***despite*** *the heavy traffic, we got there on time.* ***In spite of*** */* ***despite*** *the traffic being heavy, we got there on time.* ***In spite of*** */* ***despite*** *the fact that he is much older than the others, he won the race.* ***In spite of*** */* ***despite*** *being much older than the others, he won the race.* |
| **Despite** is used more often than **in spite of** in formal written English. | | | |

**Exercise: Complete the following sentences.**

1. We went out ………………………….. the rain.

a) in spite of       b) however c) although

2. We went out …………………………. it rained.

a) despite            b) although         c) however

3. She went on working ……………………….. she was tired.

a) although         b) despite           c) either could be used here

4. She went on working ………………………….. the fact that she was tired.

a) despite            b) however        c) although

5. …………………….. she is a nice girl, I don’t quite like her.

a) although         b) despite           c) however

6. ………………………. expensive, it was a good watch.

a) however         b) although         c) despite

7. I didn’t like the story. …………………………., everybody else seemed to enjoy it.

a) however         b) despite           c) either could be used here

8. ………………………. I didn’t like the story, everybody else seemed to enjoy it.

a) although         b) however        c) either could be used here

9. We managed to do it. …………………………….. he wasn’t there.

a) however         b) although         c) either could be used here

10. We managed to do it, ………………………….. the fact that he was not there.

a) although         b) despite           c) however

**Answers**

1. We went out **in spite of** the rain.

2. We went out **although** it rained.

3. She went on working **although** she was tired.

4. She went on working **despite** the fact that she was tired.

5. **Although** she is a nice girl, I don’t quite like her.

6. **Although** expensive, it was a good watch.

7. I didn’t like the film, **however**, everybody else seemed to enjoy it.

8. **Although** I didn’t like the film, everybody else seemed to enjoy it.

9. We managed to do it **although** he wasn’t there.

10. We managed to do it **despite** the fact that he wasn’t there.

#### in spite of / despite / although

**In spite of**, **despite** and **although** are all used to show a contrast but there are differences in the structures used with them.  
  
**In spite of / despite  
After in spite of** and **despite** we use a noun or a pronoun.

* We enjoyed our camping holiday in spite of the rain.
* Despite the pain in his leg he completed the marathon.
* Despite having all the necessary qualifications, they didn’t offer me the job.

Remember that the gerund (‘-ing’ form) is the ‘noun’ form of a verb.  
The only difference between **in spite of** and **despite** is the ‘of’. ~~Despite of the bad weather, there was a large crowd at the match.~~

After **although** we use a subject and a verb.

* We enjoyed our camping holiday although it rained every day.
* Although he worked very hard, he didn’t manage to pass the exam.
* The holiday was great although the hotel wasn’t very nice.

We can use **in spite of** and **despite** with a subject and verb if we include the expression ‘the fact that’.

* In spite of the fact that he worked very hard, he didn’t manage to pass the exam.
* Despite the fact that he worked very hard, he didn’t manage to pass the exam.

**Even though**  
**Even though** is a slightly stronger form of although.

We decided to buy the house even though we didn’t really have enough money.

* You keep making that stupid noise even though I’ve asked you to stop three times.

Like **although**, **even though** is followed by a subject and a verb