

Although / though / even though

In spite of / despite

A

Study this example situation:



Last year Paul and Sarah had a holiday by the sea.
It rained a lot, but they enjoyed it.

You can say:

Although it rained a lot, they enjoyed it.

(= It rained a lot, *but* they ...)

or

In spite of / **Despite** } the rain, they enjoyed it.

B

After **although** we use a *subject + verb*:

- ☐ **Although it rained** a lot, we enjoyed our holiday.
- ☐ I didn't get the job **although I had** the necessary qualifications.

Compare the meaning of **although** and **because**:

- ☐ We went out **although** it was raining heavily.
- ☐ We didn't go out **because** it was raining heavily.

C

After **in spite of** or **despite**, we use a *noun*, a *pronoun* (**this/that/what** etc.) or *-ing*:

- ☐ **In spite of the rain**, we enjoyed our holiday.
- ☐ I didn't get the job **in spite of having** the necessary qualifications.
- ☐ She wasn't well, but **in spite of this** she continued working.
- ☐ **In spite of what** I said yesterday, I still love you.

Despite is the same as **in spite of**. We say **in spite of**, but **despite** (*without of*):

- ☐ She wasn't well, but **despite this** she continued working. (*not despite of this*)

You can **say in spite of the fact (that) ...** and **despite the fact (that) ...**:

- ☐ I didn't get the job { **in spite of the fact (that)** / **despite the fact (that)** } I had the necessary qualifications.

Compare **in spite of** and **because of**:

- ☐ We went out **in spite of the rain**. (*or ... despite the rain.*)
- ☐ We didn't go out **because of the rain**.

D

Compare **although** and **in spite of / despite**:

- ☐ **Although the traffic was** bad, { **In spite of the traffic,** } we arrived on time. (*not In spite of the traffic was bad*)
- ☐ I couldn't sleep { **although I was** very tired. (*not despite I was tired*) / **despite being** very tired.

E

Though is the same as **although**:

- ☐ I didn't get the job **though** I had the necessary qualifications.

In spoken English we often use **though** at the end of a sentence:

- ☐ The house isn't so nice. I like the garden **though**. (= but I like the garden)
- ☐ I see them every day. I've never spoken to them **though**. (= but I've never spoken to them)

Even though (*but not 'even' alone*) is a stronger form of **although**:

- ☐ **Even though** I was really tired, I couldn't sleep. (*not Even I was really tired ...*)