

GRAMMAR

Expressing contrast

LEVEL

Intermediate (B1)

NUMBER

EN_B1_1022G

LANGUAGE

English



Learning outcomes

- I can recognise and recall a variety of ways to express contrast.
- I can accurately contrast two ideas in a sentence.



Warm-up

1. **Read** the sentences below **as a group** or **in breakout rooms**.
2. **Discuss**: what are the **positives** and **negatives** of living there for each person?



Although Paris is a beautiful city, it's so expensive to live here.

I love living in the village where I grew up. It's so quiet, but it can get quite boring!

My town isn't a very exciting place, but my whole family lives close by.

Reading

Read about a big decision in Jane's life and **answer the questions** below.

Jane grew up in London and, despite the typically bad English weather, she loves living in her hometown. Her family and friends all live close by and her social life is as busy as ever.

Her neighbourhood is quite peaceful, even though it's in Zone 2, which is right in the city centre. However, when Jane was offered a job in Amsterdam, she took it straightaway.



1. Give one positive thing and one negative thing about living in London for Jane.
2. In which city does Jane live now? Why is she there?

Reading

Continue reading the story and **answer** the question below.

Jane is very close to her best friend Maria – they're like sisters. They went to the same university and even shared a flat for five years. Although Maria was sad to hear that Jane was leaving London, she knew it was an amazing opportunity for her.

Maria enjoys travelling, but she wouldn't like to live abroad. Jane has always been the more adventurous one.



3. How is Maria different from Jane?



Expressing contrast

Look at sentences 1-4. **Highlight** any words the writer uses to express contrast.

1



Maria enjoys travelling, but she wouldn't like to live abroad.

2



Although Maria was sad to hear that Jane was leaving London, she knew it was an amazing opportunity for her.

3



Despite the typically bad English weather, Jane still loves living in her hometown.

4



Her neighbourhood is quite peaceful, even though it's in Zone 2, which is right in the city centre.

However and but

Read the examples from the text. **Fill in** the gaps below with *however* or *but*.

Jane loves living in London. However, when she was offered a job in Amsterdam, she took it.

Maria enjoys travelling, but she wouldn't like to live abroad.

- We use **but** and **however** to contrast two ideas.
- We use _____ with two separate sentences. It is slightly more formal.
- We use _____ with two clauses. It begins the second clause, after a comma.



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences using *however* or *but*. **Explain** your choice.

- 1 Maria was sad to hear that Jane was leaving, _____ she also knew that she could visit Jane often in Amsterdam.
- 2 Jane and Maria shared a flat for five years. _____, Maria moved out into her own flat because she wanted to live outside the city centre.
- 3 Jane has been to many countries, _____ she hasn't been to Japan yet.
- 4 Maria likes Amsterdam, _____ she wouldn't want to live there.
- 5 Jane was scared to take the new job. _____, she knew it would be a good opportunity.

Although, even though and though

Read these sentences from the text. **Complete** the tasks below.

Although she loves to travel, Maria would never live abroad.

Even though she'll miss her best friend, Maria is happy for Jane.

It is quiet where Jane lives, though it's in the city centre.

- We also use **although, even though** and **though** to contrast ideas.
- _____ is more commonly used in conversation than in written English.

- We can remove a clause from each example and the sentence will still make sense.
- Which clause can we remove? Discuss your answer with your teacher.



Match the parts of the sentence

Match the beginning of the sentence (1-5) with the correct ending (a-e).

1 Maria's favourite country in the world is Mexico,...

2 Jane and Maria both went to the same university,...

3 Maria likes living in London,...

4 Even though Jane knows she'll miss her friends and family in London,...

5 Though Jane's flat is right in the city centre, ...

a ...it's very calm and peaceful.

b ...but she hates taking the Tube.

c ...even though she doesn't speak any Spanish.

d ...she's sure they'll come and visit her often.

e ...though they didn't meet each other until they were in their last term there.



In spite of and despite

1. The neighbourhood is quiet despite being in the city centre.
2. Jane took the new job despite its location in another country.
3. Maria doesn't want to live abroad in spite of loving to travel.
4. Jane loves living in London in spite of the weather.

- **In spite of** and **despite** are also used to contrast ideas.

- Which sentences show the prepositions followed by a **verb in the -ing form**?
- Which sentences show the prepositions followed by a **noun**?
- Can the preposition come in a different position in the sentence?



Fill in the gaps

Use the words in the box to complete the sentences. **You do not need to use all the words.**
Pay close attention! Some words can only go in certain parts of the sentence!

1 She doesn't like him. _____, she's still going out with him.

2 I went out today _____ being ill.

3 _____ the negative effect tourism can have on wildlife, the council are planning to build several new campsites.

4 _____ I liked the dress, I decided not to buy it.

5 We tried to catch that bus, _____ we were too late.

although

but

though

even though

despite

in spite of

however



Formal or informal?

1

Though we'd love to stay, we need to get going.

2

We have more to discuss, **but** we're out of time for today.

3

He's a lovely man, **despite** his clumsiness.

4

Although I disagree with your proposal, I don't have a better one.

5

I didn't have to invite her, **though**.

Less formal

More formal



Form sentences

Use the words on the left and phrases on the right to create a sentence.

1 although

2 despite

3 even though

4 though

5 but

a Berlin is beautiful. I don't want to live there.

b We lost the match. We were happy.

c He treats her badly. She loves him.

d I wore the shoes. They were too big.

e I like coffee. My sister prefers tea.



Creating your own sentences

Build sentences using the words and phrases below.

*I wore the shoes even though
they were too big.*

*We were happy, _____ losing
the match.*



Ways of expressing contrast

- although
- despite
- even though
- though
- in spite of
- but
- however

Phrases

- He is tired. He went to bed after midnight.
- We caught the train. We were quite late.
- The test was difficult. I passed.
- I love my sister. She's very annoying.
- He offered me a steak. I'm a vegetarian.

What's good and bad about your hometown?

1. **Make notes** on your answer to this question. **Use** the topics below to help you.
2. **Share** your thoughts with the group. **Contrast** your ideas as much as you can.




transport

architecture

public spaces

weather



End of the lesson

Idiom

To play devil's advocate

Meaning: to oppose an idea (even if you agree with it) for the sake of debate.



Additional practice



Connect the sentence parts

Match the pairs. Connect the sentence parts on the right with those on the left to form sentences that make sense.

1 I'm English.

2 The teacher wasn't mad at me,

3 Though he is very intelligent,

4 Jane loves London,

5 She loves him,

a he's not popular with the team.

b However, I don't live in England.

c even though he treats her badly.

d in spite of my bad behaviour.

e although the weather is bad.



Using *despite* and *in spite of*

Fill in the gaps using *despite* or *in spite of* with the verb in parentheses.
Remember to use the *-ing* form of the verb!

- 1 _____ (leave) late, our train arrived on time.
- 2 We lost the game _____ (have) the best players.
- 3 _____ (be) clever, she is not popular in class.
- 4 I didn't answer the question _____ (know) the answer.
- 5 John is still overweight _____ (exercise) every day.



Complete the sentences

1 _____ Paris is beautiful, she hates it.

a. Despite

b. Although

2 We lost the match _____ having the strongest players.

a. despite

b. however

3 _____ it was very expensive, she decided to buy the dress.

a. But

b. Even though



Discuss



Despite being a good city to live in as a student, I don't want to live here in Birmingham forever.

What makes a city a good city for students?

Why would they want to leave, however?

What cities in your country have the most job opportunities?

Why do you think this is?

Is there a place you can see yourself living in for a long time?





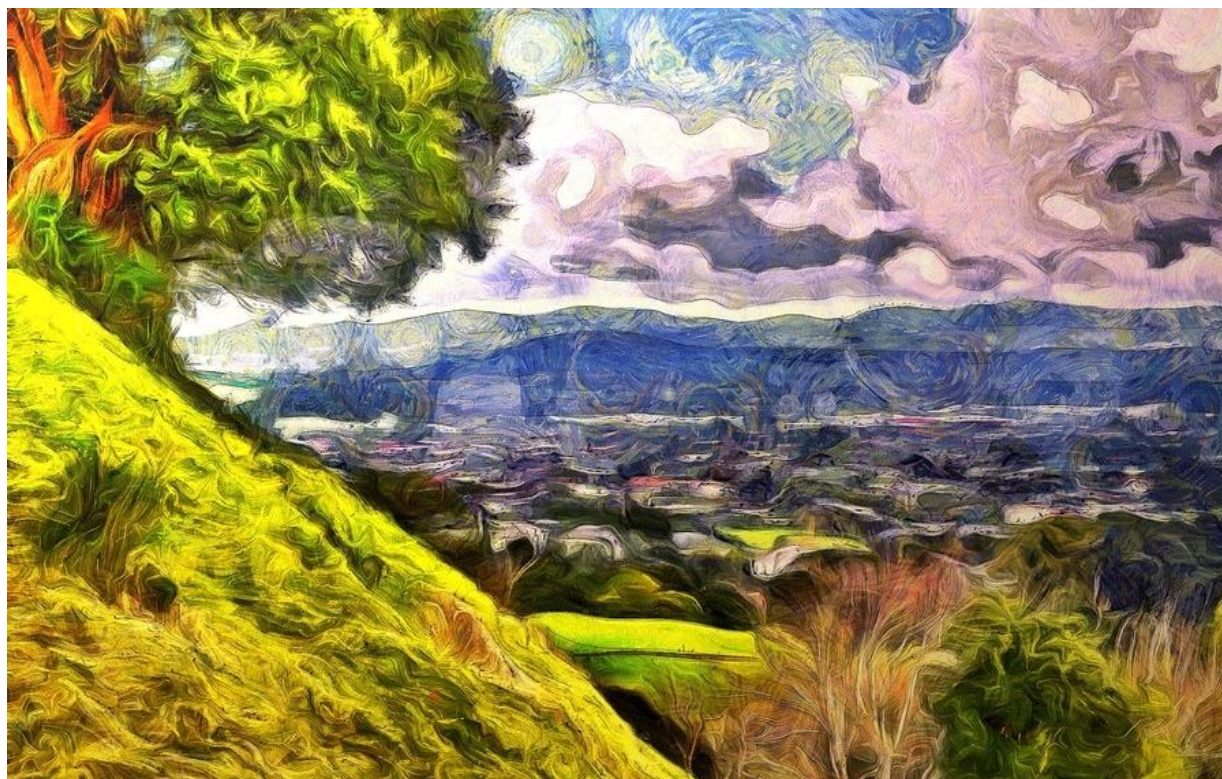
Money can't buy happiness.

Do you agree or disagree? Discuss this with your teacher and classmates, using linking words when appropriate.



Describe the picture

Describe the picture. Find something that you like and don't like about this picture and express your conflicting opinion using the linkers covered in this lesson.





Answer key

- P.4:** 1. **Positive:** Jane's friends and family are close by; she has a busy social life; lives in the centre; lives in a quiet neighbourhood. **Negative:** bad weather.
2. Jane now lives in Amsterdam. She moved there for work.
- P.5:** 3. Maria would not like to live abroad.
- P.6:** Words to express contrast: *but, though, despite, and even though*.
- P. 7:** 1. however 2. but
- P. 8:** 1. but 2. However 3. but 4. but 5. However
- P.9:** though; the clause with *even though, though, or although*.
- P.10:** 1. (c) 2. (e) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (a)
- P.11:** In the first and third; in the second and fourth; Yes, it can move to the beginning as with *although, even though* and *though*.
- P. 12:** 1. However, 2. despite, in spite of, 3. In spite of, despite 4. Even though, although, though, 5. but
- P. 13:** Less formal: 1, 2, 5; More informal: 3 and 4
- P.14:** 1. a/b 2. d/e 3. c/e 4. a/e 5. a/e



Answer key

P. 20: 1. (b) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (e) 5. (c)

P. 21

1. Despite/in spite of leaving late, our train arrived on time.
2. We lost the game despite/in spite of having the best players.
3. Despite/in spite of being clever, she is not popular in the class.
4. I didn't answer the question despite/in spite of knowing the answer
5. John is still overweight despite/in spite of exercising every day.

P. 22 1. b 2. a 3. b



Summary

Expressing contrasting ideas:

- We can use the following words to express contrast: **but, however, although, though, even though, despite** and **in spite of**.

Use:

- When we contrast ideas or objects, we compare them and show how they are different or even surprising.

Word placement:

- We use **but** between two clauses and **however** between two sentences.
- **Although, even though** and **though** as well as **in spite of** and **despite** can either come at the beginning of the sentence or between clauses.

Formal or informal:

- **In spite of, despite, however** and also **although** are slightly more formal (**in spite of** and **despite** appear more in writing)
- **Even though, though** and **but** are slightly more informal.



Vocabulary

but

however

though

even though

although

despite

in spite of



Notes

