

Expressing contrast and opposition

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3414X

LANGUAGE
English






Goals

- Can recall and use connectors to express opposition and contrast in a business context.
- Can accurately use connectors to express exceptions.





On the one hand, air travel offers a fast and comfortable way to reach your destination. **On the other hand**, the tickets can be expensive and planes are so bad for the environment!



Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson you are going to learn how to **express contrast** and **opposition**, and practise using them in a conversation.



I was quite lazy at work today! I finished everything I had to do, **though**.



But and however

- You already know how to use the words **but** and **however**.



Your CV looks great, **but** we've already hired someone for this position.

We're no longer accepting applications for this position. We will keep your CV on file, **however**.



Other words to express contrast

nevertheless

nonetheless

despite this

on the one hand

on the other
hand

even so

in spite of this

though





Words to express contrast



Everyone said it was useless negotiating with him. **Nevertheless**, I managed to get a decent deal.

Gambling is illegal in some countries. You can still do it, **nonetheless**.



He's had a rough time at home; **in spite of this**, he's been performing well recently.

On the one hand, flexi-time may improve productivity.



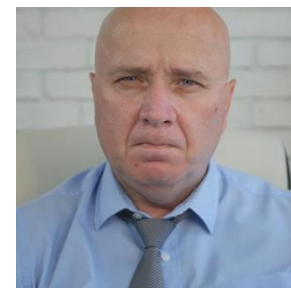


Words to express contrast



On the other hand, it will be more difficult to organise meetings.

He missed his train this morning. **Despite this**, he got to the office on time.



I have a stomach ache today. **Even so**, I still came to work this morning.

They tried to whisper. I could still hear them, **though**.





Fill in the gaps

Use contrasting words to complete the sentences. Several answers are possible.

1. On the one hand, investing in a start-up is risky. _____, it can also be extremely profitable, as we've seen with Uber and Airbnb.
2. He's always polite to customers. _____, today he seems to be in a really bad mood!
3. Many companies require their employees to wear smart clothes to work. _____, there is evidence to suggest that casual dress codes are beneficial for a company.
4. I prefer that red car to the blue one. It is more expensive _____.
5. I thought English was easy to learn, _____ it's not easy at all!





Complete the sentences

**Complete the sentences with your own ideas.
Then, compare them with your classmates or teacher.**

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. My boss didn't want me to... | Nevertheless, I... |
| 2. My team isn't very... | Despite this, they... |
| 3. I always wanted to... | On the other hand... |
| 4. Small businesses always... | Nonetheless... |
| 5. Some people think my job is... | ..., though. |



Discuss

Describe the pros and cons of working at the following types of company. Use as many of the expressions we have learnt as possible!



Start-up

Multi-national corporation

Non-profit organisation



Words to express contrast

The following **three** connectors are often used with a **noun**...

unlike



This lesson is easy, **unlike** the last one. That one was so hard!

instead of



She took the car to work today **instead of** the bus.

as opposed to



Costs, **as opposed to** profits, are rising this year.



Words to express contrast



Ben's very hard-working, **unlike** his colleague who's always on Facebook!

Would you like coffee **instead of** tea today?



As a scientist, he's more comfortable in a lab **as opposed to** an office.



Unscramble the sentences

A

our customers

Unlike

we

put

first!

our competitors,



B

instead of

the office

today.

going to

I would rather

work from home



Expressing contrast

Look at the pictures below.
Contrast them using *unlike*, *instead of* and *as opposed to*



≠



E.g. Unlike the man, the woman on the right looks relaxed.



Writing

You have just started a new job. Write to your friend and tell them how it contrasts to your previous job.

The office is very quiet, **unlike** at my previous job, where people were always talking and playing music.

Instead of a fixed one hour lunch break, we can choose how long we take off for lunch.



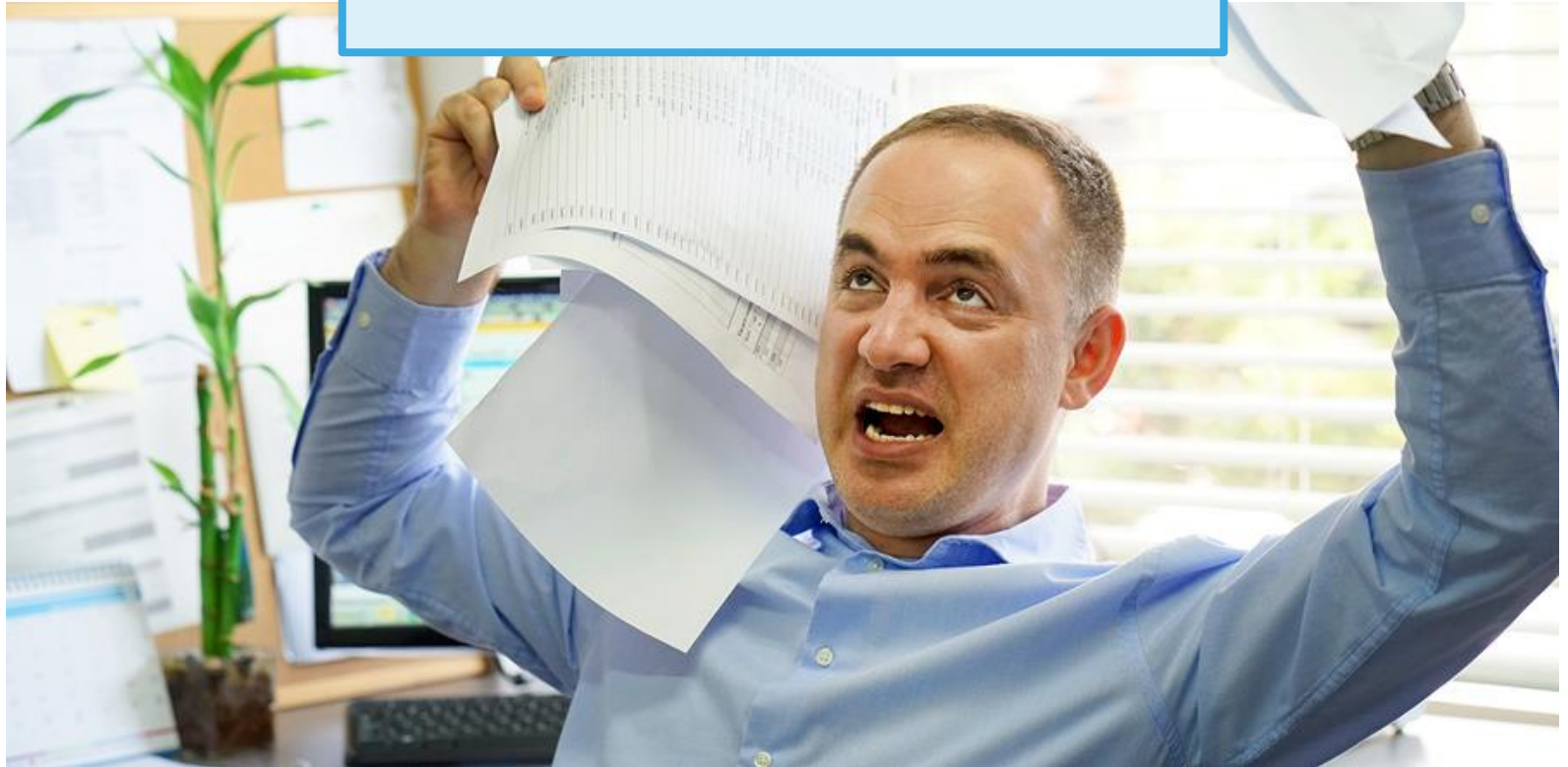
A blank sheet of lined paper with a vertical margin line on the left and a series of punch holes along the left edge, intended for writing a letter or note.



Words to express exception

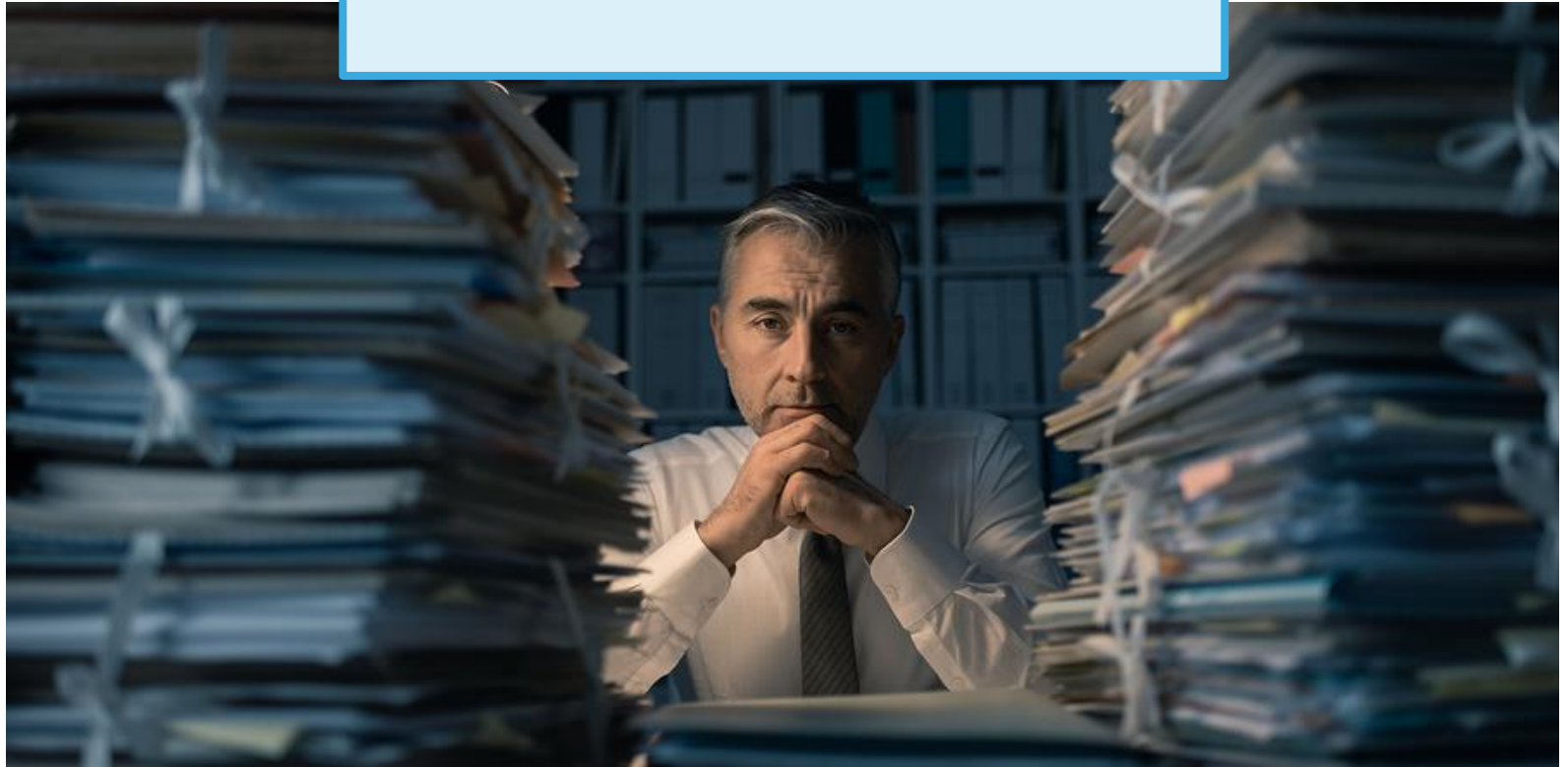
The following **three** words or phrases can be used to express **exception...**

except



I like everything about learning English **except** the grammar.

unless



Unless we work on it all night, we won't finish the project by the deadline.

apart from



Everybody attended the meeting **apart from** Raphael. He was away on business.



Fill in the gaps

Complete the sentences. More than one answer is possible.

1. Our office is open every day _____ Sunday, when it is closed.
2. _____ sitting in the meeting passively, I put my hand up and told my boss I completely disagreed with him.
3. His method is practical _____ theoretical, so it is stimulating.
4. _____ my colleagues, I don't work in the evenings.
5. _____ he arrives in the next 5 minutes, we're going without him.

unlike

unless

as opposed to

instead of

except



Think about an exceptional person in your life

Who are they?
What makes them exceptional?

Unlike most
Mums, mine is...

She isas
opposed to ...

Instead of
being, she is

Unless she's,
she's always....



Game

- **Make a statement on a topic of your choice.**
- **Your classmate will follow it with another sentence using an opposition or exception word.**

Companies should block access to social media sites.



Nonetheless, I still believe that...



Categorise

Look at the words and phrases below from today's lesson and put them in the right category.

though

unless

nonetheless

as opposed to

except

apart from

on the one hand

instead of

despite this

nevertheless

even so

on the other hand

Opposition

Exception



Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no





Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again



Answer key

Exercise 1, p.9

More than one answer is possible so use your judgement.

Exercise 2, p.17

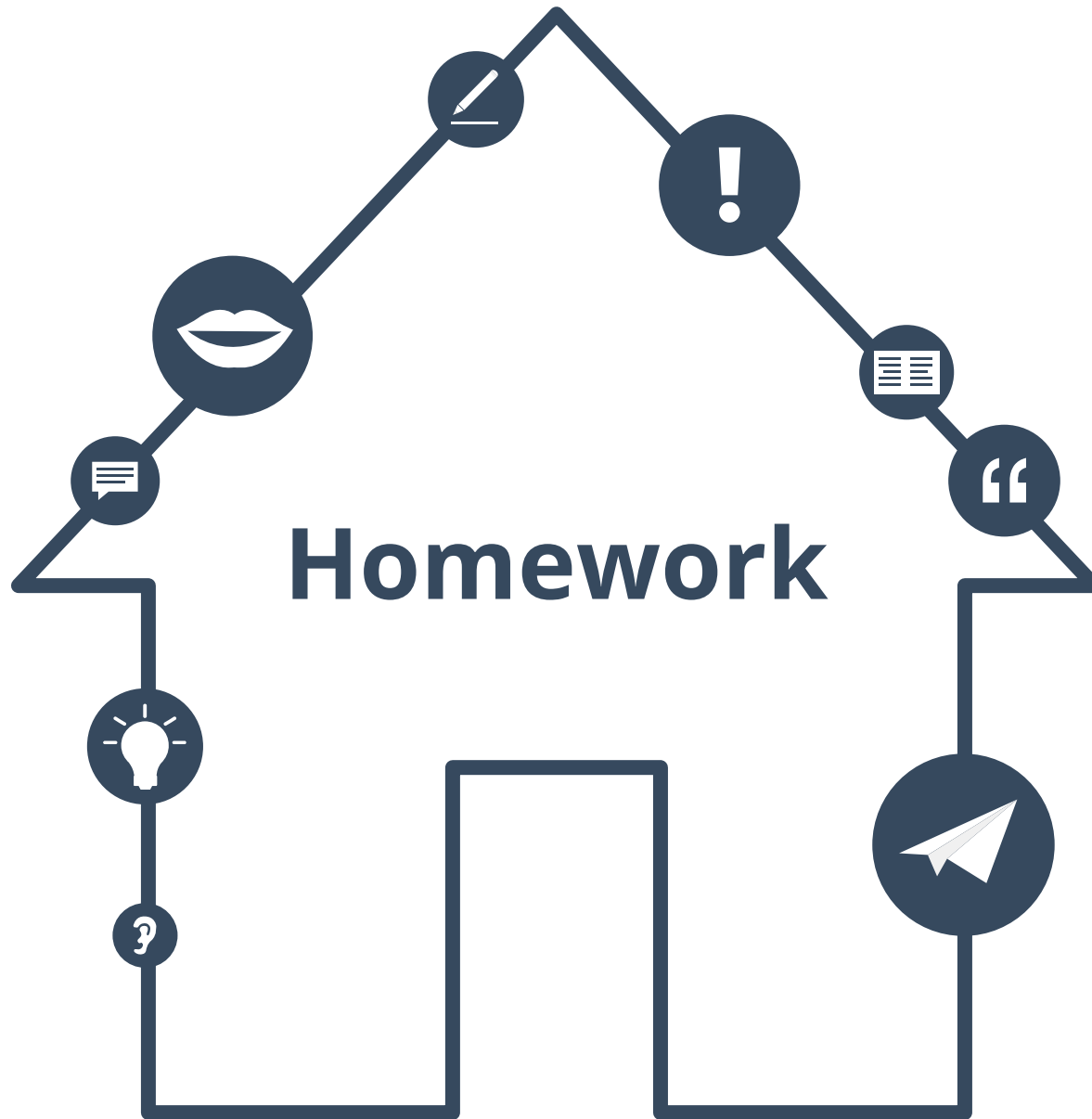
Unlike our competitors, we put our customers first!
(Today) I would rather work from home (today) instead of going to the office (today).

Exercise 3, p.24

1. Except, 2. Instead of, as opposed to, 3. As opposed to, instead of, 4. Unlike, 5. Unless

Exercise 4, p.27

Opposition: nevertheless, nonetheless, despite this, on the one hand, on the other hand, as opposed to, instead of, even so, though
Exception: except, apart from, unless





Unscramble the below and answer the questions.

A

We could

you have

go to the

unless

any other
suggestions?

cinema

B

going to a

Instead of

cook a delicious
meal

and waiting for
service?

Would you
rather

busy restaurant



Homework

Write a letter to your family and tell them about why you have chosen to study with Lingoda. Use as many of the words below, taken from this lesson, as you can!

instead of

unlike

though

as long as

except

unless



Instead of going to a school 2 hours
away, I have decided to study at home
with Lingoda....





Homework answer key

Homework, Exercise 1, p.32

We could go to the cinema **unless** you have any other suggestions?
Would you rather cook a delicious meal **instead of** going to a busy restaurant and waiting for service?



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