

Using concessive structures

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL
Upper-intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3303X

LANGUAGE
English

lingoda






Goals

- Can understand useful phrases for making concessions.
- Can use these phrases with subordinating conjunctions while negotiating with a colleague.





Unfortunately, Tim Matthews, our Head of Sales is ill today and therefore can't lead the sales pitch.

As it's such an important one, the presentation will still be going ahead, **in spite of** his absence.

I'm sure that this potential client will enjoy it, **even though** he won't be a part of it.



Lesson preview

- In this lesson, you are going to learn how to use **concessive structures** to help you **negotiate**.



Even though I've been doing barely any work, I am making great progress on this project!



Using concessive structures

- Here is what we will cover in today's lesson.

Concessive conjunctions	Concessive prepositions	Expressing contrast
<i>although</i>	<i>in spite of</i>	<i>nonetheless</i>
<i>even though</i>	<i>despite</i>	<i>conversely</i>
<i>even if</i>	<i>regardless of</i>	<i>on the other hand</i>
<i>not even if</i>		<i>by contrast</i>



The structure of concessive clauses

- **Concessive structures** always contain **two** parts:
 - A **main** clause – this expresses an **idea** or **states a fact**.
 - A **subordinate** clause – this expresses the **opposite** of the **main clause**.
 - The **subordinate clause** in **concessive structures** is also called the **concessive clause**. Can you identify the **concessive clauses** below?



I don't agree with him, **although** he argued his point very well.

Despite doing well in the interview, she was not offered the job.





Concessive conjunctions – although

- We can join the **main clause** and the **concessive clause** using **concessive conjunctions**.
- A **concessive conjunction** is always part of a **subordinate clause**.
- You will be familiar with **although**. We use it in the same way as **but**.



Although it was on sale for a very good price, she decided not to buy the car.

The meeting was useful, **although** several managers could not attend.





Using *although*

**Match the main clause with the correct concessive clause.
In each case, use the words given to form the concessive clause.**

1. Although I don't receive many emails...

a. ... although she used to love meat.

2. she / vegetarian

b. ... although I would love to go.

3. not / to / India...

c. ... not / good / friends

4. Although I respect my manager...

d. ... still / need / check / every day



Concessive conjunctions – *even though*

- We use *even though* to **acknowledge** the **opposite** of the **main clause**.
- This is useful in a **debate** or **discussion** when it is important to recognise the **other side of the argument**.



Even though Paul made some good suggestions, I think Laura's plan is best.

We need to invest in a new IT system,
even though it will be expensive.





Using *even though*

Look at the two pairs of pictures below.
Use the words to form a sentence with *even though* for each pair.



pizza / restaurant / cheap

≠



should / book / else / office / party



shouldn't / get / gift

≠



know / like / chocolate



Concessive conjunctions – *even if*

- ***Even if*** means that the **main clause** is **certain** no **matter what**.
- There is **no way** that the **concessive clause** will **affect the main clause**.



Even if I leave right now, I won't have time to catch my train.

I'll never be able to afford that car, **even if** I save half my wages for the rest of my life!





Concessive conjunctions – *not even if*



- *Not even if* means that the main clause is guaranteed **not to be true**.
- The **concessive clause** will **not** make the main clause **possible, likely** or **doable**.



I hate horror films. I won't go with you, **not even if** you buy my ticket.



Using concessive conjunctions

Choose the correct phrase to complete each sentence.

not even if

even if

although

even though

1. _____ Tony had met his targets, we still would have had to let him go.
2. I'm going to work on my spoken French, _____ I should probably focus on German at the moment.
3. I don't enjoy football, _____ it's a high-scoring game.
4. _____ my parents were doctors, it is not a career that interests me.





Concessive prepositions – *in spite of*

- We can also use **concessive prepositions** to join a **main clause** and a **concessive clause**.
- A concessive preposition can be followed by a **noun phrase** or a **gerund**.
- We use ***in spite of*** when what we express in the **concessive clause** does not **affect** the **main clause**.



In spite of the delayed train, Josephine was not late for work.

He was tired when he woke up, **in spite of** sleeping well.





Concessive prepositions – *despite*

- We use ***despite*** in the same way as ***in spite of***.
- What we express in the **concessive clause** **does not affect or change** the **main clause**.



Despite holding a successful party,
Martha didn't think it went well.

She felt that everyone was bored,
despite the fact that everyone looked
happy.





Concessive prepositions – *regardless (of)*



- We use **regardless of** in a slightly different way. It is often followed by **whether**.
- We use this when we acknowledge what we express in the **concessive clause**, but we **favour** what we express in the **main clause anyway**.



Regardless of whether he asked you to or not, you shouldn't have done it.

I know not everyone is here, but we need to carry on **regardless**.



even if

in spite of

regardless of

regardless



Using concessive clauses

Use the phrases from the previous slide to complete each of the sentences below. Use the photos and the words beneath to help form your answers.

I agree it would be great to have new computers...



budget



available

He will not be coming...

We agree it would be a shame to cancel the conference...



online



ambitious

I think your plans for the pitch are interesting...



Expressing contrast

- Each of these words and phrases



He seemed to be a strong candidate. **On the other hand**, he was five minutes late to the interview.

She would have preferred to have New Year's Day off. **Conversely**, she also enjoyed having the office to herself.



My neighbour has a very tidy garden. **By contrast**, her house is always messy.

You let the team down. **Nonetheless**, you deserve a second chance.





Expressing contrast in conversation

Practise expressing contrast by following the instructions below.



1

Use some of the phrases on the previous slide to **contrast** how you feel about **working from home and working in an office**.



2

Use some of the phrases on the previous slide to **contrast** two **film genres** you enjoy.



3

Use some of the phrases on the previous slide to **contrast attending conferences in person and participating in video conferences**.



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Answer key

Exercise p.8 – suggested answers

1. Although I don't receive many emails, I still need to check them everyday. (d)
2. She is a vegetarian, although she used to love meat. (a)
3. I haven't been to India, although I would love to go. (b)
4. Although I respect my manager, we are not good friends. (c)

Exercise p. 13

1. **Even if** Tony had met his targets, we still would have had to let him go.
2. I'm going to work on my spoken French, **although** I should probably focus on my German at the moment.
3. I don't enjoy football, **not even if** it's a high-scoring game.
4. **Even though** my parents were doctors, it is not a career that interests me.

Exercise p. 17

Concessive conjunctions: even though, even if, not even if, although
Concessive 'prepositions': despite, in spite of, regardless of, regardless





Reflect on the lesson

How did you find this lesson? Which parts were easiest and which were most challenging? Read over the more challenging aspects of the lesson to ensure you understand!

A vertical sheet of white paper with a spiral binding on the left side and horizontal lines for writing.



Thinking about how to negotiate and resolve conflict

Think about the last few months in your job. What situations have you had to negotiate in? Write about your experiences here and give examples of at least 2 sentences using concessive structures that you could have used in each case.

<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	
<input type="radio"/>	



About this material

Find out more at
www.lingoda.com



This material is provided by

lingoda

lingoda Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!