

Grammar Reference

Linking words of contrast

We use words and phrases like **though**, **although** and **even though** to link two clauses together. We call them **linking words of contrast**. We use **despite** and **in spite of** in front of nouns and gerunds.

Marta broke her leg a year ago. Marta ran a marathon last weekend.

***Despite** breaking her leg a year ago, Marta ran a marathon last weekend.*

Binh loves football. Binh has never been to a professional football match.

***Though** Binh loves football, he's never seen a professional match.*

Where to use them

Although, **even though** and **though** go in front of a clause. They can go at the beginning or middle of a sentence.

***Although** Endang worked hard, she failed her exams.*

*Endang failed her exams, **although** she worked hard.*

***Though** it was cold, Katya only wore a t-shirt.*

*Katya only wore a t-shirt, **though** it was cold.*

Despite and **in spite of** go in front of nouns or gerunds. They can also go at the beginning or middle of sentences.

***Despite** smoking 40 cigarettes a day, my grandfather lived to 100.*

*My grandfather lived to 100, **despite** smoking 100 cigarettes a day.*

***In spite of** the terrible weather, they had a nice holiday.*

*They had a nice holiday, **in spite of** the terrible weather.*