

as far as I know, ...: I don't know for sure, but I think ...

As far as I know, they are still living in Japan.

but all the same ...: but nevertheless, but despite this...

I'm sure they are correct but all the same I'd better have a look at them.

but I'll say this for ...: but you can't criticise sb/ sth for... (used to balance criticisms that you have made or that another person has just made about sb or sth)

That was the gloomiest restaurant I have ever been to, but I will say this for it, it was remarkably cheap.

but rest assured ...: but I promise you

We are not sure where the meteor is going to hit, but rest assured that, as soon as we know, you'll know.

by the sound of it, ...: based on what sb has told me/what I have read/heard ...

I haven't seen Andy for ages, but by the sound of it, he is doing really well.

from what I can gather/I gather that ...: based on the information I have, I think I am right when I say ...

From what I can gather, he's thinking of handing in his resignation.

I gather that you are thinking of moving to South Africa.

you'll have a job doing sth ...: it will be difficult for you to do sth

You'll have a job finding their house. It's in the middle of nowhere.

how come ...: an informal way of asking why; followed by clause and not used with an auxiliary

How come you got a bonus and I didn't?

I don't know about you, but I ...: used when you are telling sb what you would like to do (often used as an indirect way of inviting sb to join you)

I don't know about you, but I wouldn't mind something to eat.

I know for a fact that ...: I know for sure that ...

I overheard her talking to Jenny so I know for a fact that she's got the job.

It's all very well ...: it's okay for you but not for me because my circumstances are different (used to criticise or reject sb/sth)

It's all very well for you to go to bed at 3 a.m. You don't have to go to work in the morning.

I was led to believe that ...: sb told me that sth was true/possible

We were led to believe that our hotel was a short distance from the beach, which was far from true.

I wish to goodness ...: (followed by pronoun + would) I really wish; used when you want sb to do or stop doing sth or when you are complaining about sth annoying that sb habitually does

I wish to goodness you'd hurry up!

let's face it, ...: we must accept that

I know it is disappointing that we have to close the shop, but let's face it, there's nothing we can do.

(you) mark my words, ...: remember what I am about to say because I am sure it will happen

You mark my words, if they get married, they will be very unhappy together.

no wonder .../small wonder ...: it's not surprising

The last time you ate was yesterday morning?! No wonder/small wonder you're hungry!

to be perfectly honest ...: to be completely truthful

To be perfectly honest, I didn't understand a word of what he said.

sb struck me as ...: it seemed to me that sb was (often used to give your first impressions of sb) [Note: **what struck me most ...:** the thing I particularly noticed]

He struck me as an honest and trustworthy person.

What strikes me most about this picture is the way the man in the foreground is looking at the camera.

surely you are not (doing sth) ...: I think that sth would be a mistake [Note: **surely:** I believe that]

Surely you are not going to take them up on their offer.

Surely that is illegal?

whatever possessed you to ...?: why did you ...? (used instead of why in order to show great surprise)

Whatever possessed you to suddenly give up your job like that?

where/what/who/etc on earth ...?: on earth is used after question words to emphasise surprise or anger in a question

Where on earth has he gone off to now?

What on earth is he complaining about?

Who on earth does she think she is, putting on airs and graces like that?

with all due respect, ...: (formal) polite way to introduce criticism, contradiction, etc

But sir, with all due respect, you can't do that. It's only going to cause more problems.

Practice

1. Match the sentence openings (1 - 21) from Section A with an appropriate ending (a-u) from Section B.

A

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 0 I wish to | 0 |
| 1 I know we can't afford it, but all the | ..... |
| 2 I know you don't like Anne, but I'll say this | ..... |
| 3 From what I can | ..... |
| 4 You want to move again ?! You'll have a | ..... |
| 5 Surely you're | ..... |
| 6 To be perfectly | ..... |
| 7 No | ..... |
| 8 He struck me | ..... |
| 9 By the sound | ..... |
| 10 How | ..... |
| 11 He's lying. I know for a | ..... |
| 12 I don't know about you, | ..... |
| 13 It's all very | ..... |
| 14 He may think it's a great idea, but mark my | ..... |
| 15 They may have got away this time, but rest | ..... |
| 16 Whatever | ..... |
| 17 Where on | ..... |
| 18 With all due | ..... |
| 19 As far | ..... |
| 20 I was led | ..... |
| 21 Let's | ..... |

B

- 0 **goodness** you would consult me before you make decisions that concern both of us.
- a **honest**, I really don't care what you think.
- b **fact** that he didn't come home on Friday night.
- c **job** persuading your wife to leave this area. I know for a fact that she loves it here.
- d **respect**, sir, I don't think a decision like that can be taken without consulting a lawyer.
- e **face it**, neither of us has ever been any good at hiding our feelings.
- f **come** you weren't at work today?
- g **possessed** her to do such a thing?
- h **not thinking** of telling her? That would be a terrible idea.
- i **as** being a very honest and very generous man.
- j **same**, I can't help feeling that we'd be missing out on a wonderful opportunity.
- k **for her**, she's always been there for me when I've needed a shoulder to cry on.
- l **earth** did I put my keys?

- m **as I know**, he is still working for that company.
- n **wonder** she dislikes him. I can't believe he said those things.
- o **gather**, they're doing very well over there.
- p **well** for Simon to say that we should take a pay cut – he doesn't have a family to feed.
- q **assured**, we will be doing everything in our power to bring these people to justice.
- r **of it**, they're having the time of their lives.
- s **but** I could do with a cup of tea.
- t **to believe** that the price of the holiday was all-inclusive.
- u **words**, this will end in tears!

2. Act out short dialogues using the introductions from Exercise 1, as in the example.

- A: *I wish to goodness you would consult me before you make decisions that concern both of us.*
- B: *I'm really sorry. Honestly, I didn't think you'd mind and it seemed like a perfect opportunity.*

3. Complete the sentences using appropriate introductions from this unit.



- 1 She as the kind of person that would fit in perfectly at our company.
- 2 Julie left without saying goodbye to him? he's upset!
- 3, there's no point trying any more. It's a hopeless case.
- 4, I have no idea.
- 5, we've got the deal!
- 6 getting there on time. Traffic is really bad in the centre.

Cause and Result

to attribute sth to: to say that sth was caused by

Most historians attribute his downfall to his involvement in the Redgate scandal.

to be/come as a consequence of: to happen because of

Acid rain is a consequence of the burning of fossil fuels.

sth can be put down to: sth happens because of

The doctors put his ill health down to the fact that he was working too much.

The doctor said that his ill health could be put down to the fact that he was working too much.

due to/owing to + noun/-ing form: because of the fact that

The match had to be called off due to adverse weather conditions.

We had to call the match off owing to the fact that the pitch was waterlogged.

sth led to + noun/-ing form: sth happened because of sth else

Her refusal to give a blood sample after the match led to her disqualification.

to be responsible for + noun/-ing form: to be the reason for sth happening

Though he denied everything, he was clearly responsible for the fire.

to result in + noun/-ing form: to cause to happen

The scandal resulted in his resignation/resigning.

to stem from: to happen because of; often used for problems, unrest, discontent, trouble, etc

Most of their economic problems stem from the fact that their government is so incompetent.

to trigger off: to cause sth to happen

The government's decision to tax savings triggered off widespread rioting throughout the country.

Concession

* The following words and phrases are concession linkers: **adjective + though/as, all the same, although, and yet, but, despite, even so, even though, for all, however, in spite of, might ... but, much as, nevertheless, nonetheless, though**

* Concession linking words and phrases join a fact and a surprise that is related to that fact

Although they don't earn very much, (fact) they still go to the Caribbean every year. (surprise)

* Some concession linking words and phrases introduce the fact, others introduce the surprise

Introducing the fact

adjective + though/as + subject + verb: (formal) this structure starts a sentence

Crazy though it sounds, I think he actually enjoys being hounded by the press.

although/even though + clause: the second part of the sentence often includes the word **still**

Although/even though he tried hard, he still didn't succeed.

despite/in spite of: (i) (my/his/her/our, etc + ing form) (ii) + noun; [Note: sometimes **despite/in spite of** is followed by **this**, referring to the previous sentence] (iii) + **the fact that** + clause

Despite/In spite of his having a lot of experience, they decided not to offer him the post.

Despite/In spite of gaining straight A's in all his exams, he was unable to get a place at university.

Despite the terrible weather, we decided to go ahead with the match.

He was well-qualified and highly experienced. Despite this, he found it difficult to get a job.

We have decided to continue showing the programme, despite the fact that we have received a great many complaints about it.

for all + (my/his/her etc) + noun: generally starts a sentence

For all the mayhem and misery that war causes, there are many people who believe it is necessary.

might ... but ...: **might** appears in the fact part of the concession sentence, whilst **but** introduces the surprise; for past tense sentences you must use **might + have + past participle**; this structure is particularly common in spoken English

He might be 93, but he still jogs around the park every day.

She might have been well-prepared, but she still didn't pass the exam.

much as + clause: although; generally starts a sentence

[Note: is only used with certain verbs: **admire, appreciate, respect, sympathise, would like**, and verbs of liking (**detest, love**, etc)]

Much as I sympathise with your problems, I'm afraid that there is nothing I can do to help you.

Much as I like his music, I would never go to one of his concerts.

though + clause: **though** can also be used at the end of the surprise part of a concession sentence (this usage is common in spoken English)

Though she was the best candidate, she didn't get the job.

She was the best candidate. She didn't get the job, though.

Introducing the surprise

The most common way of introducing the surprise part of a concession sentence is with the word **but**. Sometimes other words are added to it: **but ... still, but all the same, but even so, nevertheless, but nonetheless**

She knew the truth, but (nonetheless) she didn't say anything.

Practice

1. Read the following extract and, based on what you have read, complete the sentences that appear below it.

The directors lost everything because they were incompetent. They had made a number of unwise investments and were losing a lot of money. Blaming the company's problems on a recession, the directors made twenty factory workers redundant. The redundancies so angered the workforce that their leader, Marvin Tressle, called everyone out on strike. The directors responded quickly and sacked Tressle. The workers, incensed by Tressle's dismissal, rioted and in the general confusion the factory caught fire and was burnt down. Uninsured, the directors had no alternative but to file for bankruptcy.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 All the directors' problems stem | 6 Marvin Tressle's decision to strike resulted |
| 2 The company was doing badly owing | 7 Tressle's dismissal triggered |
| 3 The directors attributed the company's economic problems | 8 The general confusion was |
| 4 The redundancies were a consequence | 9 The directors couldn't claim for fire damage due to the |
| 5 The redundancies led | 10 The fact that the directors lost everything can be put down |

2. Listen to the text and, based on what you hear, complete the notes in the table below.



1 Neville's parents were	BUT	they were
2 Neville was weak and	BUT	Neville never refused
3 Neville was an extremely young man	BUT	he still managed to
4 Neville's poetry was	BUT	but it sold
5 Neville was rich and	BUT	he was not a man.
6 Neville was afraid of	BUT	he managed to
7 Rami Rama was	BUT	Neville learnt
8 Neville was and well-known	BUT	he was still
9 In the supermarket, Neville was in	BUT	Belinda still
10 Neville knew very little about	BUT	Belinda still offered him

3. Write a new sentence for each of the sentences in the table above. Sentence 1 below corresponds to sentence 1 in the table, sentence 2 corresponds to sentence 2 in the table, etc. Each new sentence must include the word(s) given.

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 and yet | 6 Despite + noun |
| 2 Even though | 7 Despite the fact that |
| 3 Adjective+ though | 8 However |
| 4 but even so | 9 might |
| 5 For all | 10 Despite + ing |