Contrast Connectors: Unexpected Results INTERMEDIATE

> **Focus:** although, though, even though, subject + verb clauses, in spite of, despite, noun/pronoun phrases, gerund (-ing) patterns, although vs. because, in spite of vs. because of

In English, we use specific words to connect two contrasting ideas—when the result is unexpected or surprising. The grammar changes depending on which connector you use.

1. Connectors followed by a Clause (Subject + Verb)

These words are followed by a full sentence structure (Subject + Verb).

- **Although / Even though / Though**
  - **Structure:** `Connector + Subject + Verb`
  - **Usage:**
    - **Although:** Standard and common.
    - **Even though:** Stronger, more emphatic contrast.
    - **Though:** Informal. Can be used at the end of a sentence in spoken English.

> - *Although it rained, we enjoyed the picnic.*
> - *Even though I was tired, I finished the report.*
> - *I didn't get the job, though. (Informal/End position)*

2. Connectors followed by a Noun or Gerund (-ing)

These words act like prepositions. They are **never** followed directly by a subject + verb.

- **Despite / In spite of**
  - **Structure A:** `Connector + Noun / Pronoun`
  - **Structure B:** `Connector + Verb-ing` (Gerund)
  - **Structure C:** `Connector + the fact that + Subject + Verb` (Complex)

> - *Despite the rain, we went out. (Noun)*
> - *In spite of being tired, he kept driving. (Gerund)*
> - *WARNING: Do not say "Despite of". Do not say "In spite".*
> - *Correct: Despite the problem. / In spite of the problem.*

3. Contrast vs. Cause (The Logic Check)

It is easy to confuse **Contrast** (unexpected result) with **Cause** (logical result).

Type	Connectors	Logic	Example
Contrast	Although, Despite, In spite of	**Unexpected** Result	He bought the car **although** it was expensive. (Surprise!)
Cause	Because, Because of	**Logical** Result	He didn't buy the car **because** it was expensive. (Logic)

- **Because** + Subject + Verb
- **Because of** + Noun / Verb-ing

Practice

Instruction: Complete the sentences using the correct connector from the list below.
List: *although, even though, though, despite, in spite of, because, because of*

1. _____ the heavy traffic, we arrived at the airport on time.

2. She went to work _____ she felt terrible.

3. We couldn't sleep _____ the noise from the party next door.

4. _____ having a map, they got lost in the city center.

5. They decided to buy the house _____ the high price.

6. He passed the exam _____ he didn't study at all.

7. I enjoyed the movie, _____ the acting was a bit weak.

8. _____ his injury, the player insisted on finishing the match.

9. We stayed inside _____ it was raining heavily.

10. We went for a walk _____ it was raining heavily.

11. _____ not having much money, she always dresses stylishly.

12. He was accepted for the job _____ his lack of experience.

13. I didn't eat anything _____ I wasn't hungry.

14. I ate the sandwich _____ I wasn't hungry.

15. The restaurant was very expensive. The food was not very good, _____ .

Answer Key

1. **Despite / In spite of** (Followed by noun phrase "the heavy traffic" + Contrast logic)
2. **although / even though** (Followed by clause "she felt terrible" + Contrast logic)
3. **because of** (Followed by noun phrase "the noise" + Cause logic)
4. **Despite / In spite of** (Followed by gerund "having" + Contrast logic)
5. **despite / in spite of** (Followed by noun phrase "the high price" + Contrast logic)
6. **although / even though** (Followed by clause "he didn't study" + Contrast logic)
7. **although / even though** (Followed by clause "the acting was..." + Contrast logic)
8. **Despite / In spite of** (Followed by noun phrase "his injury" + Contrast logic)
9. **because** (Followed by clause "it was raining" + Cause logic)
10. **although / even though** (Followed by clause "it was raining" + Contrast logic)
11. **Despite / In spite of** (Followed by negative gerund "not having" + Contrast logic)
12. **despite / in spite of** (Followed by noun phrase "his lack..." + Contrast logic)
13. **because** (Followed by clause "I wasn't hungry" + Cause logic)
14. **although / even though** (Followed by clause "I wasn't hungry" + Contrast logic)
15. **though** (End of sentence, informal contrast)