



## Unit 59 – Adverbs of Contrast (*Although she is short, she’s an excellent player..* )

A) Adverbs of contrast are used to express unexpected or opposite ideas (concessions). Compare the following:

- > Kelly prefers tea, **but** Paul actually prefers coffee.
- > **Although** Kelly prefers tea, today she's drinking coffee.

What is the difference? The first example is a simple contrast; Kelly preferring tea is *unrelated* to Paul preferring coffee. The second example is a *concession*; which denotes something that is unexpected.

**Note:** -> with simple contrast, we usually compare a similar aspect of two different people, situations or things. With concession, we often contrast two different aspects of the same person, situation or thing.

B) Indicating concession using **although, though** and **even though** – A concession clause can start with any of these three (subordinating) conjunctions and can come before or after the main clause:

- > **Although** it was raining, I didn’t bring an umbrella. *or:* I didn’t bring an umbrella **although** it was raining.
- > **Even though** Mr. Jones is strict, he is quite caring. *or:* Mr. Jones is quite caring **even though** he is strict.

**Tip:** -> **although** and **though** are synonymous; however, **even though** carries a stronger sense.

The concession clause is often used in only one part of a sentence, and often naturally comes at the beginning:

- > **Although** I was tired, I decided to cook when I got home. *not: ~~I was tired, although I decided to cook.~~*

On other cases, the concession clause can be used in both parts of a sentence with little difference in meaning:

- > **Though** the restaurant was a bit pricey, it was definitely worth it. *or:*
- > The restaurant was a bit pricey **though** it was definitely worth it.

C) Expressing concession using **despite** and **in spite of** both convey a similar meaning to *although, though* or *even though*, however they are prepositions and therefore can only be followed by either of the following:

- a noun or noun phrase – **In spite of** the cool weather, I enjoyed my hike up the mountain.
- a pronoun – **In spite of** her illness, she is a very positive person.
- a gerund (phrase) – **Despite** being quite famous, he’s known as down-to-earth and friendly.

To follow *in spite of* and *despite* with a full clause (a subject & verb), we must add ‘the fact that’:

- > **In spite of the fact that** he was a refugee, he worked hard to integrate himself into society.
- > **Despite the fact that** she is short, she is an excellent basketball player.

These are rather formal, however, and the same clause can be expressed (more casually) with *although*:

- > **Although** she is short, she is an excellent basketball player.

D) While (Whilst) and Whereas – both conjunctions convey similar yet slightly different nuances:

- While can express contrast; this is most common when comparing the same aspect of two different things:
  - > Brown Bears weigh between 500-900 pounds **while** Polar Bears can weigh up to 1,500 pounds.
- While can also express concession (and can normally be substituted with *although*):
  - > **While (Although)** I appreciate your advice, please speak in a more respectful manner.
- Whereas has a similar meaning to while, although it is normally used to express a more direct contrast:
  - > Ted is an avid musician **whereas / while** his brother has always been an athlete.

Whereas can also express concession and indicate a surprising or unexpected result:

- > We thought she was arrogant, **whereas** in fact she was just very shy. *or: ‘but’ / ‘when on the other hand’*

E) Take note of the following chart that compares both contrast and concession:

Concession	Contrast	Summary:
although		mainly used for concession with some overlap into contrast
	whereas	used for direct contrast with some overlap into concession (the unexpected)
	while	can normally be used for both concession and contrast

Although – Peter gets excellent grades **although** he hardly ever studies. (*concessive / small contrast*)

Whereas – He’s played ice hockey his entire life **whereas** his brother is a musician. (*contrast / surprising*)

While – **While** we just met, we get along really well with each other. (*simple contrast with concessive meaning*)



F) **Even though** and **even if** – As mentioned in Part B above, **even though** is a stronger version of **although** and means ‘despite the fact that’. **Even if**, however, introduces a condition and therefore means ‘whether or not’:

-> **Even though** I have time, I won't watch that show. (*I have time but choose not to watch that show..*)

-> **Even if** I had time, I wouldn't watch that show. (*I don't have time, and I wouldn't watch it anyway..*)

## Unit 59 – Exercises:

59.1 – For each sentence, fill in the blanks with the correct word in brackets. **(59-A/B/C)**

1. David is studying now \_\_\_\_\_ there is an important match on television. (despite / even though)
2. I'd like to talk to you \_\_\_\_\_ I know you're busy at the moment. (although / in spite of)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ facing many obstacles, Lilly refused to give up. (despite / even though)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ we faced several challenges, we refused to give up. (in spite of / though)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ all my careful planning, we still encountered a few unexpected problems. (though / in spite of)
6. The heat was turned up, but \_\_\_\_\_ this, the house still felt cold. (although / despite)
7. \_\_\_\_\_ his bad behavior sometimes, Joey is a good kid; just really energetic. (despite / though)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I've never done any extreme sports before, I'd like to try free-diving. (even though / despite)

59.2 – Using the word in brackets, write a sentence that has a similar meaning to the first sentence. **(59-B/C)**

1. Despite his age, my grandfather still goes hiking every weekend. (manage)  
In spite of the fact that he's **getting older, my grandfather still manages to go** hiking every weekend.
2. In spite of her height, Carrie is an excellent basketball player. (short)  
Although \_\_\_\_\_, Carrie is an excellent basketball player.
3. Though governments are doing their best to manage Covid-19, outbreaks are still happening. (masks)  
Despite the fact that \_\_\_\_\_, Covid-19 outbreaks are still happening.
4. Although we left late, we still managed to arrive to the game on time. (busy)  
In spite of the fact that \_\_\_\_\_, we still managed to arrive to the game on time.
5. Mike still decided to accept the job even though the salary wasn't as high as he expected. (low)  
Despite the salary \_\_\_\_\_, Mike still decided to accept the job.

59.3 – Choose the word that fits each sentence best by deciding which is expressed more strongly; **concession** (although / while), or **contrast** (whereas / while). **(59-D)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I understand your viewpoint, I don't necessarily agree with you. (whereas / while)
2. Canada is quite centralized, \_\_\_\_\_ the United States is relatively decentralized. (although / whereas)
3. \_\_\_\_\_ he has only lived in France a few months, he can speak French fluently. (although / whereas)
4. Their oldest daughter is training to be an engineer, \_\_\_\_\_ her sister is studying law. (whereas / while)
5. \_\_\_\_\_ the climate in the west is relatively warm and wet, in the east it's colder and drier. (while / although)
6. He's usually right about these issues \_\_\_\_\_ this time I think he's mistaken. (while / although)
7. I got completely lost this time, \_\_\_\_\_ I'd been to that neighborhood a few times before. (although / while)
8. Most first-year students live in student dorms, \_\_\_\_\_ seniors prefer living in apartments. (while / although)

59.4 – Complete each sentence with **even though** or **even if**. **(59-F)**

1. I'm going to have to go out to the pharmacy later, \_\_\_\_\_ it's still snowing out.
2. I wouldn't take part in a game show, \_\_\_\_\_ they offered me a million dollars to participate!
3. He enjoys being a surgeon, \_\_\_\_\_ he often gets emergency calls on weekends.
4. She donates to charity on occasion, \_\_\_\_\_ she doesn't have a lot of extra money.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ I had the chance, I wouldn't go on a cruise with the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ she's a professional ballet dancer, it doesn't mean that she can dance to hip-hop.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ the injury appeared to be serious, he still went on playing the rest of game.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I had the time, I wouldn't bother playing video games at night.
9. She mentioned that she can't take care of a pet, \_\_\_\_\_ she loves animals.