

## Expressing concession

You can increase the variety in your written English by including sentences that express concession.

Concessive clauses express an idea that suggests the opposite of the main part of the sentence. It occurs when something unexpected happens.

Example:

Marian prefers coffee, but Susan prefers tea. (simple contrast)

Although Marian usually prefers coffee, today she's drinking tea.  
(concession)

With simple contrast, we are usually comparing a similar aspect of two different people, things or situations. With concession, we are often contrasting two different aspects of the same person, thing or situation.

- **ALTHOUGH/THOUGH/EVEN THOUGH + CLAUSE**

The usual way of taking about concession is to have a clause starting with although, though and even though. The concession clause can come before or after the main clause. Example:

Although / Though / Even though it had started to rain, we decided to go for a walk.

We decided to go for a walk although/though/even though it had started to rain.

**Though** is more informal and it is the only one that can appear at the end of a sentence. For example:

We decided to go for a walk. It had started to rain, though.

**Even though** is stronger and more emphatic than though and although.

Example:

Even though I had studied a lot, I failed.

- **IN SPITE OF / DESPITE + NOUN / VERB+ING**

They have a similar meaning to although and they also express concession. But they are prepositions, so they can only be followed by a noun, a pronoun and an –ing form. For example:

In spite of the bad weather, we had a great time.

Despite the bad weather, we had a great time.

If we want to follow them with a full clause, we need to add 'the fact that'.

In spite of/Despite the fact that the weather was bad, we had a great time.

There is no difference in meaning between **despite** and **in spite of**, but some people prefer to use **despite** in writing, probably it is shorter.