



Contrast & Concession (despite/in spite of/however): Despite & In Spite Of — Concession with Prepositions

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- ___ the cold weather, they went swimming in the lake.
a) Despite
b) Although
c) However
d) Despite of
- The team won the match ___ all the difficulties they faced.
a) although
b) in spite of
c) however
d) because of
- He went to work ___ he had a terrible headache.
a) despite
b) in spite of
c) although
d) despite of
- ___ being very tired, she finished the project on time.
a) Although
b) However
c) Because of
d) In spite of
- We enjoyed the trip ___ the bad food at the hotel.
a) although
b) however
c) because of
d) despite
- ___ having no experience, he got the job.
a) Despite
b) Although
c) However
d) In spite
- The restaurant was full ___ it was a weekday.
a) despite
b) even though
c) in spite of
d) despite of
- She accepted the job ___ the low salary.
a) although
b) even though
c) in spite of
d) however
- ___ she earns a good salary, she never seems to have any money.
a) Despite
b) Although
c) In spite of
d) However
- He decided to go out ___ the fact that it was snowing heavily.
a) although
b) however
c) in spite
d) despite
- ___ her fear of heights, Maria climbed to the top of the tower.
a) In spite of
b) Although
c) However
d) Despite of

12. They continued playing ____ the rain got heavier.
a) despite
b) even though
c) in spite of
d) despite of
13. We had a great time ____ the weather being awful.
a) although
b) even though
c) despite
d) however
14. He ate the whole cake ____ the fact that he was on a diet.
a) although
b) in spite of
c) despite of
d) however
15. ____ the noise, the baby slept soundly through the night.
a) Although
b) However
c) Even though
d) Despite
16. She decided to walk to work ____ it was raining heavily.
a) even though
b) in spite of
c) despite
d) despite of
17. ____ I warned him several times, he still made the same mistake.
a) Despite
b) In spite of
c) Although
d) However
18. My grandfather is still very active ____ his age.
a) in spite of
b) although
c) even though
d) however
19. She didn't get the promotion ____ having worked there for ten years.
a) although
b) even though
c) despite
d) however
20. They went ahead with the outdoor wedding ____ the forecast predicted rain.
a) despite
b) in spite of
c) however
d) even though



Answers

1. a) Despite
2. b) in spite of
3. c) although
4. d) In spite of
5. d) despite
6. a) Despite
7. b) even though
8. c) in spite of
9. b) Although
10. d) despite
11. a) In spite of
12. b) even though
13. c) despite
14. b) in spite of
15. d) Despite
16. a) even though
17. c) Although
18. a) in spite of
19. c) despite
20. d) even though



Explanations

1. “Despite” (a)

'Despite' is a preposition followed by a noun phrase ('the cold weather'). 'Although' needs a clause with a subject and verb. 'Despite of' does not exist in English — never add 'of' after 'despite'.

2. “in spite of” (b)

'In spite of' is followed by the noun phrase 'all the difficulties'. 'Although' needs a clause (e.g., 'although they faced many difficulties'). 'Because of' expresses reason, not concession — it would mean the difficulties helped them win, which is the opposite meaning.

3. “although” (c)

'Although' is a conjunction that introduces a clause ('he had a terrible headache'). 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot be followed by a subject + verb. You could say 'despite having a terrible headache' or 'despite his terrible headache'.

4. “In spite of” (d)

'In spite of' is followed by the -ing form 'being very tired'. 'Although' would need a full clause: 'Although she was very tired'. 'Because of' would give the opposite meaning (reason, not concession).

5. “despite” (d)

'Despite' is followed by the noun phrase 'the bad food at the hotel'. 'Although' needs a clause with a verb. 'Because of' would mean the bad food was the reason they enjoyed the trip — the opposite of the intended meaning.

6. “Despite” (a)

'Despite' is followed by the -ing form 'having no experience'. 'Although' would need a clause: 'Although he had no experience'. 'In spite' is incomplete — the correct form is 'in spite of' (never drop the 'of').

7. “even though” (b)

'Even though' is a conjunction that introduces the clause 'it was a weekday'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot be followed by a subject + verb. You could say 'despite it being a weekday' or 'despite the fact that it was a weekday'.

8. “in spite of” (c)

'In spite of' is followed by the noun phrase 'the low salary'. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause with a verb (e.g., 'although the salary was low'). 'However' is an adverb that connects sentences — it cannot be used as a preposition.

9. “Although” (b)

'Although' introduces the clause 'she earns a good salary'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot be followed by a subject + verb. You could say 'Despite earning a good salary' or 'Despite her good salary'.

10. “despite” (d)

'Despite the fact that' is a fixed phrase used to introduce a clause after the preposition 'despite'. 'In spite' is incomplete — the correct form would be 'in spite of the fact that'. 'Although' doesn't need 'the fact that' — you would simply say 'although it was snowing heavily'.

11. “In spite of” (a)

'In spite of' is followed by the noun phrase 'her fear of heights'. 'Although' needs a clause (e.g., 'Although she was afraid of heights'). 'Despite of' does not exist — use 'despite' without 'of', or 'in spite of' with 'of'.

12. “even though” (b)

'Even though' introduces the clause 'the rain got heavier'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' cannot be followed by a clause — you would need 'despite the rain getting heavier' or 'despite the heavier rain'.

13. “despite” (c)

'Despite' is followed by the noun phrase 'the weather being awful' (noun + participle). 'Although' and 'even though' would need a finite clause: 'although the weather was awful'. 'However' is a sentence connector and cannot be used here.

14. “in spite of” (b)

'In spite of the fact that' is a correct phrase combining the preposition 'in spite of' with 'the fact that + clause'. 'Despite of' does not exist in English. 'Although' does not need 'the fact that' — just say 'although he was on a diet'.

15. “Despite” (d)

'Despite' is followed by the noun 'the noise'. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause with a verb (e.g., 'Although it was noisy'). 'However' is an adverb that links sentences and cannot introduce a noun phrase.

16. “even though” (a)

'Even though' is a conjunction that introduces the clause 'it was raining heavily'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' cannot be followed by a subject + verb. 'Despite of' does not exist.

17. “Although” (c)

'Although' introduces the clause 'I warned him several times'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' need a noun or -ing form — you could say 'Despite my warnings' or 'Despite being warned several times'.

18. “in spite of” (a)

'In spite of' is followed by the noun phrase 'his age'. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause with a verb (e.g., 'although he is old'). 'However' cannot be used as a preposition.

19. “despite” (c)

'Despite' is followed by the -ing form 'having worked there for ten years'. 'Although' would need a clause: 'although she had worked there for ten years'. 'However' is a sentence connector and doesn't fit this position.

20. “even though” (d)

'Even though' introduces the clause 'the forecast predicted rain'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot be followed by a subject + verb. You could say 'despite the rainy forecast'.