



Contrast & Concession (despite/in spite of/however): Mixed Contrast & Concession – Transformations

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. She didn't buy the dress ____ she really liked it.
a) despite
b) even though
c) in spite of
d) however
2. The north of the country is mountainous, ____ the south consists mainly of flat farmland.
a) whereas
b) despite
c) nevertheless
d) in spite of
3. ____ hard he tried, he couldn't solve the problem.
a) Although
b) Despite
c) However
d) Nevertheless
4. She failed the test. This was ____ the fact that she had studied all week.
a) although
b) however
c) even though
d) despite
5. ____ I enjoy traveling, I really hate packing my suitcase.
a) Despite
b) Nevertheless
c) While
d) In spite of
6. He passed his driving test ____ not having any formal lessons.
a) despite
b) although
c) however
d) nevertheless
7. The region has beautiful scenery. ____, it attracts very few tourists.
a) Although
b) However
c) Despite
d) Even though
8. She was very tired; ____, she stayed up to finish her assignment.
a) although
b) despite
c) in spite of
d) however
9. ____ their efforts to save the company, it went bankrupt.
a) Although
b) However
c) Despite
d) Even though
10. The two brothers look very similar; ____, they have completely different personalities.
a) however
b) although
c) despite
d) even though
11. She got the job ____ her lack of qualifications.
a) although
b) in spite of
c) however
d) even though



Answers

1. b) even though
2. a) whereas
3. c) However
4. d) despite
5. c) While
6. a) despite
7. b) However
8. d) however
9. c) Despite
10. a) however
11. b) in spite of
12. d) Although
13. d) whereas
14. a) despite
15. b) however
16. c) due to
17. b) Even though
18. d) despite
19. a) Although
20. c) even though



Explanations

1. “even though” (b)

'Even though' is a conjunction followed by the clause 'she really liked it'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they need a noun or -ing form (e.g., 'despite really liking it'). 'However' is a sentence connector and cannot join clauses within one sentence.

2. “whereas” (a)

'Whereas' is a conjunction used to contrast two facts within one sentence. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot introduce a clause. 'Nevertheless' is a sentence connector and cannot join clauses with a comma like this.

3. “However” (c)

'However' + adjective/adverb means 'no matter how'. 'However hard he tried' = 'No matter how hard he tried'. This is a special use of 'however' different from its role as a sentence connector. 'Although' would need a different structure: 'Although he tried hard'.

4. “despite” (d)

'Despite' fits after 'This was' as a preposition: 'This was despite the fact that...' This is a less common but correct pattern where 'despite' follows a linking verb. 'Although' and 'even though' are conjunctions and cannot follow 'was'. 'However' is an adverb and doesn't fit here.

5. “While” (c)

'While' can introduce a contrast clause, meaning 'although' or 'whereas'. 'While I enjoy traveling' contrasts with 'I hate packing'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions and need a noun or -ing form. 'Nevertheless' is a sentence connector.

6. “despite” (a)

'Despite' is a preposition followed by the -ing form 'not having any formal lessons'. 'Although' would need a clause with a subject: 'although he didn't have any formal lessons'. 'However' and 'nevertheless' are sentence connectors and cannot be used mid-sentence this way.

7. “However” (b)

'However' connects two independent sentences, showing the surprising contrast between beautiful scenery and few tourists. 'Although' and 'even though' are conjunctions — they cannot start a new independent sentence after a full stop. 'Despite' is a preposition.

8. “however” (d)

'However' follows a semicolon to connect two contrasting independent clauses. 'Although' is a conjunction used within one sentence. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions that need a noun or -ing form.

9. “Despite” (c)

'Despite' is a preposition followed by the noun phrase 'their efforts to save the company'. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause: 'Although they tried to save the company'. 'However' is a sentence connector and doesn't fit at the start with a noun phrase.

10. “however” (a)

'However' after a semicolon connects two contrasting independent clauses: '; however, ...'. 'Although' and 'even though' are conjunctions — they introduce dependent clauses and cannot follow a semicolon to start an independent statement. 'Despite' is a preposition and needs a noun or -ing form.

11. “in spite of” (b)

'In spite of' is a preposition followed by the noun phrase 'her lack of qualifications'. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause: 'although she lacked qualifications'. 'However' is a sentence connector.

12. “Although” (d)

'Although' introduces the clause 'he had the best qualifications'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot take a clause directly. You could say 'Despite having the best qualifications'. 'However' is a sentence connector, not a clause introducer.

13. “whereas” (d)

'Whereas' introduces a direct contrast between two facts: living in the city now vs growing up in the countryside. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions. 'However' would need a sentence break: 'I like living in the city. However, I grew up in the countryside.'

14. “despite” (a)

'Despite' is a preposition followed by the noun phrase 'the risks involved'. It shows he invested in spite of the risks. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause with a verb. 'However' is a sentence connector.

15. “however” (b)

'However' in mid-sentence position, between commas, adds a surprising contrast. 'Although' and 'even though' are conjunctions and cannot be inserted mid-sentence between commas. 'Despite' is a preposition.

16. “due to” (c)

'Due to' expresses reason: poor ticket sales CAUSED the cancellation. Be careful: 'despite' would give the OPPOSITE meaning — it would imply the concert was cancelled even though ticket sales were poor (i.e., the poor sales should not have led to cancellation). When the situation is a logical consequence, use 'due to' or 'because of', not 'despite'.

17. “Even though” (b)

'Even though' introduces the clause 'the course was free' and expresses surprise — you would expect more people to sign up for a free course. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' cannot take a clause directly. 'However' is a sentence connector and doesn't introduce subordinate clauses.

18. “despite” (d)

'Despite' is a preposition followed by the noun phrase 'its innovative design and heavy marketing'. It expresses concession — the product failed even though it had good design and marketing. 'Although' and 'even though' need a clause: 'although it had an innovative design'.

19. “Although” (a)

'Although' introduces the clause 'the children were tired'. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' are prepositions — they cannot take a subject + verb. You could say 'Despite being tired'. 'However' is a sentence connector and doesn't introduce dependent clauses.

20. “even though” (c)

'Even though' introduces the clause 'the office is only a five-minute walk', expressing the surprising contrast between driving and living so close. 'Despite' and 'in spite of' need a noun or -ing form. 'However' is a sentence connector.