



Fronting: Concessive & Object Fronting

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. ___ it may seem, this traditional method is actually more effective than modern alternatives.
a) Strange though
b) Though strange it
c) Strange although
d) Although it strange
2. ___ she was, she insisted on finishing the marathon.
a) As exhausted
b) Despite exhausted
c) Exhausted as
d) Although exhausted
3. ___ the journey was, the breathtaking scenery made it worthwhile.
a) Though long
b) Long though
c) Long despite
d) Although long
4. ___ the restaurant appeared from the outside, the food turned out to be exceptional.
a) As unpromising
b) Despite unpromising
c) Unpromising despite
d) Unpromising as
5. ___ the evidence appeared, the jury remained unconvinced.
a) Though convincing
b) Convincing despite
c) Convincing though
d) Although convincing
6. ___, he couldn't find a single error in the code.
a) As he might try
b) He might try as
c) Although try he might
d) Try as he might
7. ___, the rescue team could not locate the missing climbers.
a) Search as they did
b) As they searched did
c) Search they did as
d) Did they search as
8. ___, the committee failed to reach an agreement before the deadline.
a) As they might negotiate
b) Negotiate as they might
c) Might they negotiate as
d) They might negotiate as
9. ___, the firefighters could not save the historic building.
a) As they did battle
b) They did battle as
c) Battle as they did
d) Did they battle as
10. ___, I have to admit that his latest proposal lacks originality.
a) Much as I respect his expertise
b) As much I respect his expertise
c) I respect his expertise much as
d) Despite much I respect his expertise

11. ____, we cannot justify the cost of renovating the entire building.
- As much we appreciate its historical value
 - We appreciate much as its historical value
 - Despite much we appreciate its historical value
 - Much as we appreciate its historical value
12. ____ it appeared, the abandoned cottage was actually structurally sound.
- As dilapidated
 - Dilapidated as
 - Despite dilapidated
 - Although dilapidated
13. Some of the proposals the board accepted, but the most controversial ones ____.
- did they reject outright
 - they rejected outright
 - rejected they outright
 - outright they did reject
14. Her advice I always value, but his constant criticism ____.
- find I exhausting
 - do I find exhausting
 - I find exhausting
 - exhausting I find
15. Most of the essay was well written, but the conclusion ____.
- the examiner found unconvincing
 - found the examiner unconvincing
 - the examiner unconvincing found
 - unconvincing the examiner found
16. ____ the project was delivered on time, the client was not satisfied with the overall quality.
- Delivered though
 - Complete as
 - Although
 - Finish as they might
17. The team worked overtime ____ they could meet the tight deadline.
- much as
 - try as
 - hard though
 - so that
18. I really enjoyed the book, ____ it was rather long.
- even though
 - long though
 - much as
 - enjoyable as
19. ____ the hotel room was small, it had a beautiful view of the harbour.
- Small though
 - Although
 - Small as
 - Much as
20. He accepted the job offer ____ the salary was lower than he had hoped.
- low as
 - lower though
 - much as
 - even though



Answers

1. a) Strange though
2. c) Exhausted as
3. b) Long though
4. d) Unpromising as
5. c) Convincing though
6. d) Try as he might
7. a) Search as they did
8. b) Negotiate as they might
9. c) Battle as they did
10. a) Much as I respect his expertise
11. d) Much as we appreciate its historical value
12. b) Dilapidated as
13. b) they rejected outright
14. c) I find exhausting
15. a) the examiner found unconvincing
16. c) Although
17. d) so that
18. a) even though
19. b) Although
20. d) even though



Explanations

1. “Strange though” (a)

In concessive fronting, the adjective moves before 'though' or 'as': 'Strange though it may seem...' The pattern is: Adjective + though/as + Subject + Verb.

2. “Exhausted as” (c)

Concessive fronting with 'as': the adjective moves before 'as' — 'Exhausted as she was...' means 'Although she was exhausted'. 'As exhausted' reverses the required order.

3. “Long though” (b)

The adjective 'Long' is fronted before 'though': 'Long though the journey was...' The word order 'Though long' is incorrect — in this pattern, the adjective must come first.

4. “Unpromising as” (d)

The adjective 'Unpromising' is fronted before 'as': 'Unpromising as the restaurant appeared...' means 'Although the restaurant appeared unpromising'. 'Despite' cannot be followed by an adjective directly.

5. “Convincing though” (c)

Fronted concessive: 'Convincing though the evidence appeared...' The adjective comes before 'though'. 'Though convincing' reverses the required order for this pattern.

6. “Try as he might” (d)

In verb fronting, the base form of the verb moves before 'as': 'Try as he might...' means 'Although he tried very hard'. The pattern is: Verb(base) + as + Subject + might/may/did.

7. “Search as they did” (a)

'Search as they did' means 'Although they searched thoroughly'. The base form 'search' is fronted before 'as', followed by the subject and auxiliary: Verb + as + Subject + did.

8. “Negotiate as they might” (b)

'Negotiate as they might' means 'Although they tried hard to negotiate'. The verb is fronted: Verb + as + Subject + might. 'Might' here expresses persistent effort despite failure.

9. “Battle as they did” (c)

'Battle as they did' follows the verb fronting pattern: Verb + as + Subject + did. It means 'Although they battled hard'. Using 'did' instead of 'might' emphasises that the effort actually happened rather than was merely attempted.

10. “Much as I respect his expertise” (a)

'Much as' is a fixed concessive phrase meaning 'although very much': 'Much as I respect his expertise, I have to admit...' The word order 'As much' is incorrect — 'much' must come before 'as'.

11. “Much as we appreciate its historical value” (d)

'Much as we appreciate...' means 'Although we appreciate very much...' This is a fixed concessive pattern. 'Much' always precedes 'as' in this construction.

12. “Dilapidated as” (b)

Concessive fronting with 'as': the adjective moves before 'as' — 'Dilapidated as it appeared...' means 'Although it appeared dilapidated'. This pattern works with adjectives of any length.

13. “they rejected outright” (b)

After a fronted object ('the most controversial ones'), normal subject-verb order follows: 'the most controversial ones they rejected outright.' Subject-auxiliary inversion ('did they reject') only occurs with negative adverbials, not with object fronting.

14. “I find exhausting” (c)

In object fronting, the object moves to the front but subject-verb order stays normal: 'his constant criticism I find exhausting.' There is no inversion after a fronted object — 'find I' and 'do I find' are incorrect here.

15. “the examiner found unconvincing” (a)

With a fronted object ('the conclusion'), normal S+V order follows: 'the conclusion the examiner found unconvincing.' The subject 'the examiner' comes before the verb 'found'. No inversion occurs in object fronting.

16. “Although” (c)

Here, the standard conjunction 'Although' is correct: 'Although the project was delivered on time...' Fronting patterns like 'Delivered though' or 'Complete as' would need to replace the predicate adjective/verb, but the sentence already has a complete clause after the blank.

17. “so that” (d)

This sentence expresses purpose, not concession. 'So that' introduces a purpose clause: 'The team worked overtime so that they could meet the deadline.' Concessive fronting patterns (much as, try as, hard though) express contrast, not purpose.

18. “even though” (a)

The standard concessive 'even though' fits naturally in mid-sentence: 'I really enjoyed the book, even though it was rather long.' Fronting patterns (long though, much as) are used at the beginning of a sentence, not after a comma in the middle.

19. “Although” (b)

Here, 'Although' is the correct choice: 'Although the hotel room was small...' Using 'Small though' or 'Small as' would create 'Small though the hotel room was small' — repeating the adjective 'small', which is incorrect. Fronting removes the adjective from its normal position.

20. “even though” (d)

The standard concessive 'even though' is correct here: 'He accepted the job offer even though the salary was lower.' Using 'low as' or 'lower though' would create a repetition ('low as the salary was lower') since the adjective is already in the clause.