

How to express contrast

CONJUNCTIONS

BUT

It's very strange, but I like it

(AL)THOUGH

Although/though it's very strange, I like it

This connector may be emphasized by putting "even" before: **EVEN THOUGH**

Even though it's very strange, I like it

ALTHOUGH and THOUGH mean exactly the same and are used the same, but THOUGH is more informal and more common when talking, and ALTHOUGH is more formal and more common when writing. Notice that (AL)THOUGH and BUT are both conjunctions and mean the same, but they go with different sentences:

A but B (BUT can never go at the beginning of the sentence)

B although A / Although B, A

PREPOSITIONS

IN SPITE OF (followed by a noun phrase or -ing)

She's sleeping like a log in spite of the noise

He was elected president in spite of his young age

If we want a sentence with a verb then we can't use the preposition "in spite of", we need a conjunction like "(al)though".

Although he is very young, he was elected president



But we can use IN SPITE OF + ING (because -ing can be the noun-form of a verb)

In spite of loving her, he thought it was best to leave

We didn't want to buy the house in spite of having enough money

Compare:

He stayed in bed in spite of feeling better (in spite of + ing)

He stayed in bed although he felt better (although + subject + verb)

FREE CONNECTORS

The same idea as **ALTHOUGH**, but as a free connector, can be expressed with these 6 connectors:

ON THE OTHER HAND

It's not a very nice flat. On the other hand, it's very cheap

I wanted to go, but on the other hand, I was too tired, so I stayed at home

Optionally, you can use it with **ON THE ONE HAND** with the other contrasting idea. This dual construction emphasizes the contrast:

On the one hand I wanted to go, but on the other hand, I was too tired

NEVERTHELESS

HOWEVER

YET / STILL*

THOUGH

ANYWAY

They all have the same meaning, but they differ in the place they take inside the sentence:

BETWEEN TWO SENTENCES → Nevertheless, However, On the other hand, Yet, Still

He says he needs money. XXX, he has 2 houses and 2 cars

IN THE MIDDLE OF A COMPOUND SENTENCE → Nevertheless, However, On the other hand, Though

I was getting bored at the party. When she arrived, XXX, I knew it would be fun

AT THE END → Though, Anyway (but never "although")

It's a bit strange. I like it, XXX



None of these can go at the beginning of a sentence

* **YET** and **STILL** can be adverbs of time or free connectors (used with two sentences)

1 sentence (adverbs):

- I haven't finished yet
- She's still looking for a job

2 sentences (connectors)

- I love you. Yet, I can't marry you
- That's very nice. Still, I prefer the other one

Compare:

- I don't have money yet (but I probably will)
- I like that car. Yet, I don't have money (so I can't buy it) /yet = nevertheless/