



Mini Lesson 056 - Using 'Despite' and 'In Spite Of' Correctly

Explanation:

Despite and **in spite of** are used to express contrast, meaning they introduce a situation or fact that seems opposite to the main clause. Both phrases can be used interchangeably and have the same meaning, but they are used in slightly different grammatical structures.

Despite:

- **Form:** **Despite** + noun/noun phrase/verb-ing.
- Example: **Despite** the rain, we went for a walk.
- Example: **Despite** feeling tired, she continued working.

In Spite Of:

- **Form:** **In spite of** + noun/noun phrase/verb-ing.
- Example: **In spite of** the cold weather, they played outside.
- Example: **In spite of** being sick, he went to school.

Key Points:

- Both **despite** and **in spite of** are followed by a noun, a pronoun, or a gerund (verb + -ing).
- Neither can be followed by a full clause (subject + verb). If you want to use a full clause, use **although** or **even though** instead.





Exercises:

Section 1: Fill in the Blanks

Complete the sentences using *despite* or *in spite of*.

1. _____ the heavy traffic, we arrived on time.
2. They continued to play _____ the bad weather.
3. _____ having no money, he managed to buy a gift.
4. She went to work _____ feeling unwell.
5. We decided to go hiking _____ the forecast of rain.
6. _____ his age, he runs faster than most of his younger teammates.
7. The team won the match _____ missing their best player.

Section 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct option: *despite* or *in spite of*.

1. _____ her injury, she completed the race.
 - a) Despite
 - b) In spite of
2. He passed the exam _____ studying very little.
 - a) despite
 - b) in spite of
3. We had a great time _____ the rain.
 - a) despite
 - b) in spite of
4. _____ being tired, they stayed up late.
 - a) Despite
 - b) In spite of





Section 3: Sentence Rewriting

Rewrite the sentences using *despite* or *in spite of*.

1. Although he was exhausted, he finished the marathon.
2. Even though the food was spicy, she enjoyed the meal.
3. Although they practiced a lot, they lost the game.
4. Even though it was raining, they went for a run.
5. Although she is allergic to cats, she adopted one.

Section 4: Combine the Sentences

Combine the following sentences using *despite* or *in spite of*.

1. He was late. He took a taxi.
2. The movie was long. I enjoyed it.
3. She had no experience. She got the job.
4. It was cold. They went swimming.
5. The bus was delayed. We made it to the airport on time.

Section 5: Error Correction

Each sentence below contains an error. Correct the sentences by using *despite* or *in spite of* correctly.

1. **Despite** he was tired, he continued working.
2. **In spite of** he didn't study much, he passed the exam.
3. **Despite** the traffic was heavy, we arrived on time.
4. She went to the party **despite** she was sick.
5. **In spite of** the fact that he is rich, he lives a simple life.





Answers:

Section 1:

1. **Despite** the heavy traffic, we arrived on time.
2. They continued to play **in spite of** the bad weather.
3. **Despite** having no money, he managed to buy a gift.
4. She went to work **in spite of** feeling unwell.
5. We decided to go hiking **despite** the forecast of rain.
6. **Despite** his age, he runs faster than most of his younger teammates.
7. The team won the match **in spite of** missing their best player.

Section 2:

1. a) **Despite**
2. a) **despite**
3. a) **despite**
4. b) **In spite of**

Section 3:

1. **Despite** being exhausted, he finished the marathon.
2. **In spite of** the spicy food, she enjoyed the meal.
3. **Despite** practicing a lot, they lost the game.
4. **In spite of** the rain, they went for a run.
5. **Despite** being allergic to cats, she adopted one.





Section 4:

1. **Despite** taking a taxi, he was late.
2. **In spite of** the movie being long, I enjoyed it.
3. **Despite** having no experience, she got the job.
4. **In spite of** the cold, they went swimming.
5. **Despite** the bus being delayed, we made it to the airport on time.

Section 5:

1. **Despite** being tired, he continued working.
2. **In spite of** not studying much, he passed the exam.
3. **Despite** the heavy traffic, we arrived on time.
4. She went to the party **despite** being sick.
5. **Despite** the fact that he is rich, he lives a simple life.

