

An adverb clause (a dependent clause) is a group of words that plays the role of an adverb. There are different kinds of adverb clauses: [time](#), [place](#), [condition](#), [manner](#), [contrast](#), [purpose](#), [comparison or degree](#), [cause and result](#).

RELATED: Don't miss our [Complete guide to adverb clauses](#) with definitions, types, and examples.

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Clauses of contrast

Clauses of contrast (or *concession*) are used to show the difference between two statements. We can use 'although', 'though', 'even though', 'in spite of' and 'despite'.

Although

'Although' can be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. It is followed by a subject and a verb:

- **Although it rained**, they enjoyed their walk.
- They enjoyed their walk, **although it rained**.

Though

We use 'though' in a similar way to 'although', but it is more informal. In spoken English,

'*though*' is more common than 'although':

- ***Though it was*** expensive, I enjoyed the meal.
- I enjoyed the meal, ***though it was*** expensive.

Even though

'*Even though*' is a little stronger than 'though' and 'although'. It can also be used at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. Again, it is followed by a subject and a verb:

- ***Even though I was*** full, I couldn't stop eating.
- I couldn't stop eating, ***even though I was*** full.

In spite of

We use '*in spite of*' at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence. It is followed by a noun, a pronoun or a gerund (-ing):

- ***In spite of the pain***, Harry finished the race.
- Harry finished the race, ***in spite of the pain***.

Despite

We use '*despite*' at the beginning or in the middle of a sentence, too. Again, it is followed by a noun, a pronoun or a gerund (-ing):

- ***Despite the snow***, I drove to my grandma's house.
- I drove to my grandma's house, ***despite the snow***.

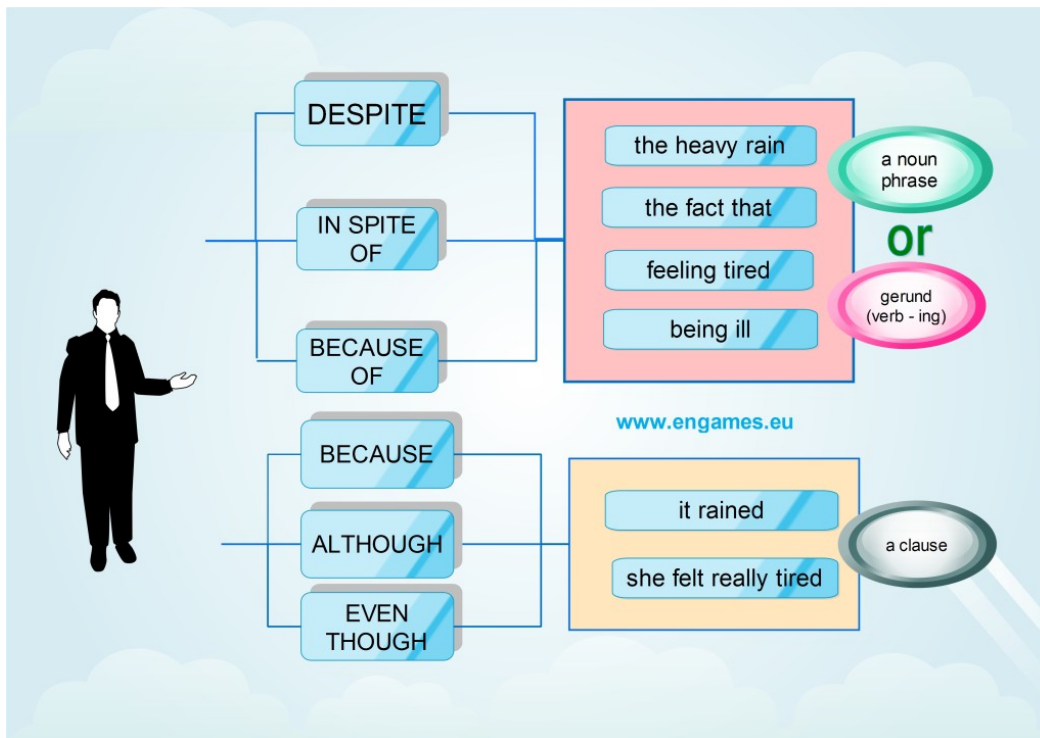
Note: Do not use '**of**' with '**despite**'. For example:

- I drove to my grandma's house, ***despite*** the snow.
NOT: I drove to my grandma's house, ~~despite of~~ the snow.

You must use '**of**' with '**in spite of**'. For example:

- I drove to my grandma's house, ***in spite of*** the snow.
NOT: I drove to my grandma's house, ~~in spite~~ the snow.

This chart shows the usage of clauses of contrast in summary:



via <http://sorayaeoi.blogspot.com/2017/11/clauses-of-contrast-and-purpose.html>

Watch this video from [EngVid](#) to learn how to express opposing ideas in English:

Clauses of purpose

Clauses of purpose are used to show why something is happening. We can use 'to', 'for', 'in order to', 'so as to' and 'so that'.

To

We often use 'to' to show why something is happening. We use the *infinitive* form of the verb:

- My mother went out **to buy** some milk.
- 'm going to Spain **to see** my friend.
- I'm going outside **to find** some flowers.

For

We use 'for' to show the exact purpose of something. It is followed by a noun or a gerund (-ing):

- *We went to the supermarket **for bread**.*
- *The mop is **for cleaning** the floor.*
- *She went out **for a meal**.*

In order to

'In order to' is more formal than 'to'. Again, we use the infinitive form of the verb:

- *I did some research **in order to find** the best music player.*
- *A meeting was arranged **in order to discuss** the team's progress.*
- *Harry studied all night **in order to pass** his English exam.*

So as to

'So as to' is also more formal than 'to'. Again, we use the infinitive form of the verb:

- *I bought a smaller car **so as to save** money.*
- *Elliot moved to a new house **so as to be** closer to his parents.*
- *She left early **so as to be** at home with her family.*

Note: When we want to say something **negative** using 'in order to' or 'so as to', we can put '**not**' before the '**to**'.

For example:

- *I woke up early **in order not to** miss the bus.*
- *I woke up early **so as not to** miss the bus.*

So that

'So that' is paired with a subject and a modal verb like 'could', 'would', 'can' or 'will':

- *I gave her my phone number **so that she could** call me.*
- *I'm going out **so that I can** buy fruit.*
- *I did some exercise **so that I would** feel better.*

This video explains how to use adverb clauses of purpose:

Read more on this topic:

[Adverb Clauses of Cause, Result and Comparison](#)

[Adverb Clauses of Time, Place, Condition and Manner](#)

[Conjunctions of Contrast](#)