

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***.

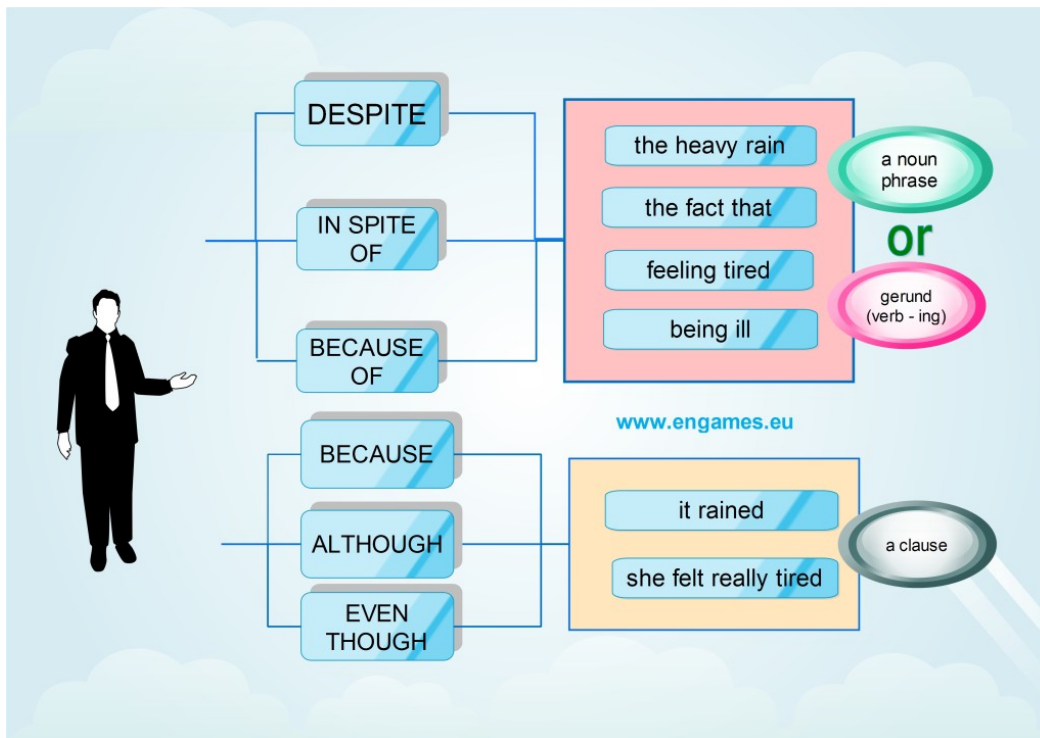
Note: Do not use '**of**' with '**despite**'. For example:

- 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](#)