

50 Contrasting ideas

A Sample sentences

Although email is a very convenient form of personal communication, most people have never sent one. But the number of users is increasing very quickly. Despite improvements in telecoms networks, connection speeds are often very slow; however ADSL promises faster connections.

B Form

We can use the following language techniques to contrast ideas:

1 Clauses of contrast

These consist of two clauses: the *main clause* and the *contrast clause*.

Even though the number of mobile phones users has increased, call charges remain high.
 [*contrast clause*] [*main clause*]

The main *conjunctions of contrast* are:

although • but • even though • though • whereas • while

Notice the difference in use between *but* and the others:

Videoconferencing is very convenient, but (it) is not as personal as face-to-face contact.
 [*main clause*] [*main clause*]

Although videoconferencing is very convenient, it is not as personal as face-to-face contact.
 [*contrast clause*] [*main clause*]

2 Phrases of contrast

The *phrase of contrast* consists of a *preposition* (or prepositional phrase) + a noun.

Despite improved security, hackers can still access many networks.
 [*phrase of contrast*]

The phrase of contrast can also come at the end of the sentence.

Hackers can still access many networks despite improved security.

The main words to introduce a phrase of contrast are:

despite • in spite of

3 Sentence connectors of contrast

These words or expressions link two sentences together which are in contrast to each other.

You can download Google from many sites worldwide. However, some are faster than others.

The main sentence connectors are:

all the same (informal) • but • even so • however • nevertheless • still • yet

C Uses

Study the mini dialogue below.

A: *Although* we can share many resources, some are not shared. *Even so*, we should see this as a vast improvement.

B: I don't understand why all the printers aren't available to all.

A: In fact, everyone can use all the printers; *however*, one has been designated as default for each work group.

A: I'd prefer to use the colour laser printer.

B: I know you would, *but* it's very expensive to print each page in colour. And in most cases, colour isn't necessary.

TASKS

1 Complete the following sentences by choosing a suitable ending from the box.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ accidents sometimes occur. | ■ there are places in the country where it doesn't work. |
| ■ those are a mixture of polyester and wool. | ■ careful packing. |
| ■ people in developing countries often have to drink polluted water. | ■ he washed it. |

- The contents of the crate were broken despite ...
- Although the care label said the coat should be dry-cleaned, ...
- These carpets are 100% wool whereas ...
- Mobile phone coverage is fairly extensive; however, ...
- In spite of strict safety regulations, ...
- While we enjoy clean piped drinking water, ...

2 Complete the following text by using one of the words in the box.

whereas • however • but • despite • while

The first cantilever bridges were built in China and Tibet (a) _____ they were made of timber and could not carry heavy loads. (b) _____, once cheap, reliable steel became available in the 1870s, it was possible to build long spans capable of carrying rail traffic. (c) _____ the first modern cantilever bridge was built in Germany, the Forth Railway Bridge in Scotland held the record for the longest for over 30 years. The Forth Railway Bridge is made of huge steel tubes. (d) _____ the Oosterschelde Bridge in Holland is made of pre-stressed concrete. Some bridges look a little confusing in design. (e) _____ having cable stays, Lake Maracaibo Bridge in Venezuela is a cantilever type bridge.

3 A small company is looking for a new site to build a new factory. The Director is discussing three possible sites. Join the sentences in A and B using the connector in C to form part of her speech.

Example *Site 1 provides a suitable amount of space but it's the most expensive.*

A	B	C
Site 1 provides a suitable amount of space.	It's the most expensive.	but
It could be difficult.	It's worth considering.	although, still
Road and rail connections are not far away.	It will be necessary to build a bridge across the river.	although
It's surrounded by trees and close to the mountains.	It's only four kilometres from the nearest town.	however
There is a large labour market.	Workers in this area are unskilled.	even though
Site 1 is close to road and rail connections.	Site 2 is close to the airport.	while
Government finance is available for companies moving into the area.		nevertheless
Site 2 is fairly small.	Site 3 is almost too big.	whereas
Site 3 is not expensive.	It's in the centre of town.	despite
It may be difficult to get planning permission for new industrial buildings.		even so