

General

Use these words to give differences. Think of them in 3 types;

Long

however/in contrast

Use these words with one main sentence¹. Use a full stop² or semi colon³ to separate them from the sentence before. These words often go at the beginning of the sentence, but can go in other places too. Use 'in contrast' to compare two separate people/situations⁴, not the same one.

Short

but/yet

Use these words to join two main sentences¹. Do not use a full stop to separate these two sentences.

Complex

although/though despite/in spite of while/whereas

Use these words to join a main sentence¹, and a dependent part⁵. This dependent part is explained in a later unit, but briefly, it could be a sentence^a, an adjective^b, a noun^c, or an -ing verb^d. This depends on which word you use;

'although'/'though' go with sentences or adjectives.
'despite'/'in spite of' go with nouns or -ing verbs. If you want to use a sentence with them, add 'the fact that'⁶.
'while'/'whereas' go with two sentences. Use these to compare two separate people/situations⁴.

Again, do not use full stops to separate the two parts. Use a comma if you put the linking word at the beginning.

Mistakes

Take care with the punctuation - don't mix up commas and full stops.
Take care with the grammar - decide on what follows; eg a noun, a sentence
Take care with the meaning - these words are not interchangeable.

Progression

As you get better, think about mixing up these types of words. Just remember to follow the rules for each linking word, and have at least one main sentence. Also think about other words/phrases eg 'even though', 'nevertheless', and 'on the other hand', but check the definition in a dictionary.

Long

He was wealthy². However, he never spent money¹.
He was wealthy³, however, he never spent money.
He was wealthy. He never spent money, however.
He⁴ was wealthy. In contrast, his brother⁴ was quite poor.

Short

He was wealthy¹ but he never spent money¹.

Complex

Although he was wealthy^{5a}, he never spent money¹.
He never spent money although he was wealthy^{5a}.
He never spent money although wealthy^{5b}.
Despite his wealth^{5c}, he never spent money.
Despite being^{5d} wealthy, he never spent money.
Despite having^{5d} wealth, he never spent money.
Despite the fact that⁶ he was wealthy^{5a}, he never spent money.
Whereas he⁴ was wealthy^{5a}, his brother⁴ was quite poor.

Mistakes

He studied hard, however, he failed the exam. O
He studied hard. However, he failed the exam. II
He studied hard. But he failed the exam. O
He studied hard but he failed the exam. II
Although he studied hard, but he failed the exam. O
Although he studied hard, he failed the exam. II
Despite he studied hard, he failed the exam. O
Despite his hard work, he failed the exam. II
Despite studying hard, he failed. II
Despite the fact that he studied hard, he failed the exam. II
However he studied hard, he failed the exam. O
Although/though he studied hard, he failed the exam. II
He studied hard despite failing the exam. O
Despite studying hard, he failed the exam. II
Whereas he studied hard, he failed the exam. O
Whereas he studied hard, I was lazy and did nothing. II

Progression

