

The Tennis Game



1 Conversation Read, and fill in the spaces.

Scene: Jen and Claire are friends. They are talking about last weekend.

Jen So did you have a good weekend?
Claire Yeah - it was pretty good, despite the ¹..... !
Jen Yes, of course - you took part in a tennis competition.
Claire That's right. It's a local competition, and we played ²..... in spite of the rain!
Jen Did you win?
Claire Well, not exactly. But I did ³.....a prize, though.
Jen That's great! What you get?
Claire I got a ⁴..... for 'most promising player'.
Jen Congratulations!

- outdoors
- weather
- trophy
- win

2 Comprehension Ask and answer the questions below with a partner.

1. How was the weather at the weekend?
2. What did Claire do at the weekend?
3. What did she win a trophy for?

3 Matching Your teacher will give you some cards. Match the sentences.

4 Language Check Fill in the spaces using the words on the right. Use one word twice.

Contrasting Ideas

One Sentence

① the terrible weather, the game was not cancelled.
 ②
 ③ Sarah is a good student, she doesn't like studying.

Two sentences

That sushi restaurant is really good. It's quite expensive, ④
 ⑤
 ⑥

Jim didn't pass the audition. ⑦ , he didn't seem to care.
 ⑧

- however
- in spite of
- mind you
- although
- though
- despite

5 Language Practice

Choose five cues from (A) and make sentences using "contrast" words from (B).

A

Harry has lots of friends

Sarah wasn't very worried

Tom became a teacher

Julian refused to go

Oliver didn't go outside

the hotel was really popular

it was freezing cold outside

B

♦ however ♦ in spite of ♦ mind you ♦ although ♦ though ♦ despite

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

6 Speaking Practice #2 Do you remember? Use the cues and practise the conversation.

Jen good / weekend ?
Claire pretty good / weather
Jen of course / take part / tennis competition
Claire right / local competition / play / rain
Jen win?
Claire exactly / win / prize
Jen great / what / get ?
Claire get / trophy / promising
Jen Congratulations!

Matching Cards

Despite the terrible weather,

the football game wasn't cancelled.

In spite of his bad grades,

Bill got into university.

Brett wants to travel overseas.

However, he's afraid of flying.

Rupert cannot swim.

He's taking lessons, though.

I didn't go to the concert.

Mind you, I heard it wasn't very good.

The restaurant was almost empty,

although the food was actually very good.

The Tennis Game: Teaching Notes

Target Structure:	Expressing Contrast
Vocabulary:	General
Level:	Intermediate +
Time:	45 minutes
Preparation:	None

Suggested Teaching Method

There are many different ways to express contrast. This worksheet looks at some of the most common: *although*, *despite*, *in spite of*, *however* and *mind you*. For more information on the grammar behind these expressions, please check our grammar notes.

- 1 Set the scene. You could have students speculate on the picture. What happened? What is happening now? (Students may not know the verb "congratulate".

Direct your students' attention to the words in the box. Pre-teach 'trophy', if necessary. Students should read through the conversation, filling in the blanks. When finished, they should check in pairs. Finally, students should practice the conversation aloud once, and then change roles. Answer any vocabulary questions the students have.

- 2 Follow the instructions. Students can work in pairs for this exercise. Go through the answers on the board.
- 3 Assign pairs. Give out one set of cards to each pair, and have them match the pairs to make sentences. You could set the exercise up as a race. Go through the answers at the end.
- 4 Students can work in pairs and check with another pair.

Depending on your students' needs, you may wish to provide additional explanation of in spite of / despite.

In spite of / despite are followed by a noun. This can include a verb in the -ing form. (e.g. despite missing the bus) They can be used formally - and there is very little difference between the two.

'Mind you' is almost always used in spoken (less formal) situations.

- 5 Elicit an example sentence from a confident student - or give one of your own. Explain that students can make grammatical changes to the cues, where necessary.

Students can work in pairs, and then compare with another pair. Elicit feedback from your students at the end.

- 6 This exercise can be used to show students that they can use the target language in a conversation. The cues from the conversation are given. Assign new pairs, and have them act out the conversation.

If your students would like to repeat the exercise, you can write the cues on the board, and erase more words for each practice.

The answer key is on the next page.

Answer Key

- ①
1. weather
 2. outdoors
 3. win
 4. trophy
- ②
1. It wasn't good. (Perhaps it rained?)
 2. She took part in a tennis competition. / She played tennis.
 3. She won a trophy for 'most promising player'.
- ③
- Despite the terrible weather, the football game wasn't cancelled.
In spite of his bad grades, Bill got into university.
Brett wants to travel overseas. However, he's afraid of flying.
Rupert cannot swim. He's taking lessons, though.
I didn't go to the concert. Mind you, I heard it wasn't very good.
The restaurant was almost empty, although the food was actually very good.
- ④
- 1/2. **In spite of / despite** the terrible weather, the game was not cancelled.
 3. **Although** Sarah is a good student, she doesn't like studying.
 - 4/5/6. That sushi restaurant is really good. It's quite expensive, **however / mind you / though**.
 - 7/8. Jim didn't pass the audition. **However / Mind you** he didn't seem to care.

How are we doing?

We'd be pleased to hear some feedback on our worksheets. Tell us how it went in your class. You can send us feedback from www.handoutsonline.com

Alternatively, you can email the editor at editor@handoutsonline.com.

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