

Opposite Connectors Answer Key

Sample Responses

1. We went outside to play **despite** the rain.
2. Everyone passed **in spite of** the difficult test.
3. She stayed up to finish her book **despite** being tired.
4. The dog barked loudly at the stranger **in spite of** its small size.
5. He gave a great speech **despite** forgetting his notes.
6. It tasted delicious **in spite of** looking messy.
7. The kite flew high **despite** the strong wind.
8. The teacher let us join the activity **in spite of** arriving late.
9. The kids kept swimming **despite** the cold water.
10. It still worked perfectly **in spite of** being old.

Teacher's Guide

- **Skill Focus:** Students learn to express contrast concisely by combining ideas using **despite** or **in spite of**.
- **Differentiation Tips:**
 - For visual learners, show how the two ideas are opposite (problem vs. outcome) before combining them.
 - Provide sentence starters like "Despite ___, ___" to scaffold struggling writers.
- **Engagement Ideas:**
 - Have students act out one sentence and let classmates guess the correct connector.
 - Turn it into a "Sentence Builder Relay" where pairs race to create grammatically correct contrast sentences.
- **Extension Activities:**
 - Encourage students to write two original "contrast pairs" from their daily life and combine them correctly.
 - Ask advanced learners to explain how punctuation and tone change when **despite** or **in spite of** begins a sentence.