

## Concession vs contrast

While **concession** linking words, such as despite and even though and **contrast** linking words such as contrary to and conversely both convey a sense of one thing standing in opposition to, something else, concession linking words and phrases convey the meaning of overcoming obstacles and conditions or conceding certain facts, before introducing an idea that goes against the expectations created in the mind of the hearer/reader. Linking words of contrast emphasize opposition and contradiction without conceding/admitting anything and without emphasizing obstacles and difficulties. To differentiate the usages of both types of linking words, try to replace the linking words that are primarily used for concession with the expression ‘while it is true that ....., .....’.

**Study the following examples and decide whether you have concession or pure contrast. Use the following expression :**

**Contrary to – contrarily to – in contrast to – despite – unlike - even though - conversely**

1. .... the heavy rain, they went out. (Despite)
2. .... our expectations, he quit his job and sued no one. (Contrary/contrarily to)
3. .... smokers have rights, making smoking illegal will benefit the whole society. (Although)
4. .... what most media claim, the Greek did not demonstrate much against the austerity measures. (Contrary/contrarily to)
5. .... proof by testimony, material evidence is an object. (Unlike)

6. .... cocaine production, the production of opiate takes place in more than one region. (Unlike)
7. .... coffee, which awakens you, tea relaxes you. (Unlike)
8. The computer industry is known for its can do spirit, but, ....., it often makes unrealizable promises about performance.(conversely)
9. A person can experience mental well-being in spite of a diagnosis of mental illness or, ....., be free of a diagnosed mental illness, but still be experiencing mental distress.(conversely)
10. Street youth are viewed by the police as delinquent troublemakers who have to be dealt with harshly or, ... .., completely ignored. (conversely)
11. From what I heard, I expected him to act in an authoritarian way and refuse to cooperate, but, ....., he was very understanding and willing to help.(conversely)

