

Lesson Plan: Concession clauses

Level	Advanced (C1–C2)
Time	60–90 minutes
Skills	Grammar, writing
Focus	Granted that, admittedly, while, even if, however, nevertheless — academic concession

OBJECTIVES

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use a range of formal concession structures in academic and professional writing
- Distinguish between concession and contrast
- Understand the argumentative function of concession in balanced writing
- Produce sophisticated paragraphs that acknowledge counterarguments

TARGET LANGUAGE (EXAMPLES)

Concessive clauses (+ clause)

- Even if the results are correct, the methodology is flawed.
- While this approach has merit, it fails to account for...
- Granted that prices have fallen, affordability remains a concern.

Sentence adverbs and phrases

- Admittedly, the research has limitations.
- Nevertheless, the findings are significant.
- That said, further investigation is needed.
- Even so, the theory deserves consideration.

Concession in argument structure

- Thesis: Renewable energy is essential.
- Concession: Admittedly, the infrastructure costs are high.
- Counter: Nevertheless, the long-term benefits outweigh the initial investment.

Concession vs. contrast

- Contrast (but) = simple opposition
- Concession = acknowledge the opposite view, then argue against or qualify it

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up (10 min)

Task: Model a concession argument: teacher argues one side, students provide concessions.

- 'AI will replace human workers.' → 'Admittedly, AI will automate some roles...'

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Concession as an argumentative strategy: acknowledge before you rebut.

- Classify: clause-based (while, even if, granted that) vs. sentence-level (admittedly, that said).
- Show how a well-placed concession makes an argument stronger, not weaker.

3. Guided practice (10 min)

Task: Add a concession sentence to one-sided argument paragraphs.

- Students choose the most appropriate concession phrase and insert a conceding sentence.
- Then add a 'counter' sentence using nevertheless / even so / that said.

4. Writing task (25 min)

Task: Write a balanced argumentative paragraph on a given topic.

- Must include: thesis statement, concession, counter-argument, conclusion.
- Topics: universal basic income, social media regulation, nuclear energy.

5. Peer review (5–10 min)

Task: Does the concession make the argument more or less persuasive?

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one:

1. Write a balanced essay paragraph using 3 different concession structures.
2. Rewrite a one-sided paragraph to include appropriate concessions.
3. Find 5 concession structures in an opinion editorial and analyse their argumentative function.