

Lesson Plan:

Linking words of contrast (but, however, although)

LEVEL	TIME	SKILLS	FOCUS
Beginner / Intermediate (A2-B1)	50-60 minutes	Grammar, writing, speaking	But, however, although, even though, whereas, while, on the other hand

OBJECTIVES

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

- Use but, however, and although correctly to express contrast
- Understand the grammatical difference: but/however join sentences; although introduces a clause
- Use whereas and while to compare two contrasting ideas
- Vary contrast language to avoid overusing 'but'

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

But — joins two clauses directly

- I like coffee but I don't drink it at night.
- She studied hard but she didn't pass the exam.
- It's expensive but worth it.

However — starts a new sentence or follows a semicolon

- I like coffee. However, I don't drink it at night.
- She studied hard; however, she didn't pass.
- Note: never use 'however' to join two clauses with a comma only — that's a comma splice.

Although / even though — introduces a clause

- Although it was raining, we went for a walk.
- Even though she was tired, she stayed up late.

- I accepted the job, even though the salary was low.

Whereas / while — comparing two different things

- She loves cities, whereas her brother prefers the countryside.
- While some people love mornings, others are night owls.

Meaning & Nuance

Linker	Followed by	Position	Example
but	clause	middle of sentence	I tried but failed.
however	new sentence	start of new sentence (after full stop)	I tried. However, I failed.
although	full clause	start or middle	Although I tried, I failed.
even though	full clause (stronger than although)	start or middle	Even though I tried hard, I failed.
whereas	full clause	start or middle	I tried, whereas she gave up immediately.
while	full clause	start or middle	While I worked, she relaxed.

LESSON PROCEDURE**1. Warm-up: Odd one out (5 min)**

Task: Students identify which contrast linker doesn't fit in a sentence. → *Activates awareness of grammatical differences before teaching.*

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Teach each linker with a sentence and the grammatical rule.

- Critical point: however needs a full stop or semicolon before it — not just a comma.
- Although and even though are interchangeable but 'even though' is stronger.
- Whereas/while = two different facts side by side — not one negating the other.

3. Error correction (10 min)

Task: Find and fix 8 errors in sentences using contrast linkers.

- Include: comma splice with however, incorrect position of although, however mid-clause.

4. Writing task (20 min)

Task: Write 6 sentences comparing two things using 4 different contrast linkers.

- Topics: two cities, two jobs, two sports, two seasons. → Encourage variety — penalize using 'but' for every answer.

TEACHER NOTES

- The comma splice error with 'however' (I tried, however, I failed.) is extremely common even at B2 level.
- Although vs. even though: both are grammatically identical — even though just sounds more emphatic or surprised.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write a paragraph comparing two places you know using 4 different contrast linkers.
2. Correct 6 contrast linker errors in a given paragraph.
3. Rewrite 5 sentences replacing 'but' with a different contrast linker each time.