

Lesson Plan: Concession clauses in writing

Level	Intermediate / Advanced (B1-C1)
Time	60-75 minutes
Skills	Grammar, writing
Focus	While, although, even though, despite, in spite of, granted, admittedly, nevertheless

OBJECTIVES

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

- Use a range of concession structures in academic and professional writing
- Distinguish concession from contrast
- Understand the argumentative function of acknowledging the other side
- Produce balanced paragraphs that use concession effectively

TARGET LANGUAGE & EXAMPLES

Clause-based concession

- Although / Even though: Although the results are promising, further testing is required.
- While: While this approach has merit, it fails to account for cost.
- Granted that: Granted that prices have fallen, affordability remains an issue.

Phrase-based concession (+ noun/gerund)

- Despite: Despite the challenges, the project was completed on time.
- In spite of: In spite of the evidence, many people remain unconvinced.
- Notwithstanding: Notwithstanding these concerns, the policy was approved.

Sentence adverbs

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

Concession vs. contrast

- Contrast (simple): She is tall but her brother is short. (two equal facts)
- Concession: Although she is tall, she is a poor basketball player. (surprising, unexpected)
- Concession = the speaker acknowledges something before arguing against or qualifying it.

Meaning & Nuance

Structure	Grammar	Concession type
although / even though	+ full clause	clause concession
while	+ full clause	clause concession / comparison
despite / in spite of	+ noun or gerund (-ing)	phrase concession

admittedly	sentence adverb	acknowledges a weakness in own argument
nevertheless / that said	starts new sentence	counter after concession
granted (that)	+ full clause (formal)	formal acknowledgment

LESSON PROCEDURE

1. Warm-up: Model a concession argument (10 min)

Task: Teacher argues one side; students must provide a concession.

- 'AI will replace all workers.' → 'Admittedly, AI will automate some jobs...'
- Shows the rhetorical function of concession before the grammar.

2. Presentation (15 min)

Task: Categorise by structure: clause, phrase, sentence adverb.

- Despite + noun/gerund (NOT despite + clause — a very common error).
- Argumentative function: concession makes writing more credible, not weaker.

3. Error correction (10 min)

Task: Fix 6 concession errors.

- 'Despite she was tired...' → Despite being tired / Although she was tired.
- 'Admittedly of the cost...' → Admittedly, the cost is high.

4. Balanced argument paragraph (25 min)

Task: Write a paragraph that acknowledges a counterargument before asserting the main position.

- Structure: Concession (admittedly/although) → Counter (nevertheless/however) → Main argument.
- Topics: social media, universal basic income, nuclear energy.

TEACHER NOTES

- Despite + clause is the most common concession error across all levels: 'Despite she was tired' is wrong.
- Concession is a mark of sophisticated argumentation — it signals to the reader that the writer has considered multiple perspectives.

EXTENSION / HOMEWORK

Choose one or more:

1. Write a balanced 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 function.