Unit 109 Although/though/even though
In spite of / despite

a Study this example situation:

Last year Jack and Jill spent their holidays by the sea.
It rained a lot but they enjoyed themselves. You can say:

Although it rained a lot, they enjoyed themselves.
(= It rained a lot *but* they ...)

or: **In spite of / Despite** the rain, they enjoyed themselves.

b After **although** we use a *subject + verb*:

- **Although she smokes** 40 cigarettes a day, she is quite fit.
- **Although it rained** a lot, we enjoyed our holiday.
- I didn't get the job **although** I had all the necessary qualifications.

After **in spite of** (or **despite**) we use a *noun*, a *pronoun* (this/that/what etc.) or **-ing**:

- **In spite of the rain**, we enjoyed our holiday.
- I didn't get the job **despite my qualifications**.
- She wasn't well, but **in spite of this** she went to work.
- **Despite what** I said last night, I still love you.
- I'm not tired **in spite of working** hard all day.

Note that we say 'in spite **of**', but **despite** (without **of**).
You can also say **in spite of / despite** the fact (that) ...:

- **In spite of the fact** (**that**) I was tired, I couldn't sleep.
- She's quite fit **despite the fact** (**that**) she smokes 40 cigarettes a day.

Compare **although** and **in spite of / despite**:

- **Although the traffic was** bad, I arrived on time.
  In spite of the traffic, I arrived on time.
- I couldn't sleep **although I was** very tired.
  I couldn't sleep **despite being** very tired.

c Sometimes we use **though** instead **although**:

- I didn't get the job **though** I had all the necessary qualifications.

In spoken English we often use **though** at the end of a sentence:

- The house isn't very nice. I like the garden **though**. (= but I like the garden)
- I see him every day. I've never spoken to him **though**. (= but I've never spoken to him)

Even though is a stronger form of **although**:

- **Even though** I was really tired, I couldn't sleep.

Note that we say 'in spite **of**', but **despite** (without **of**).