

IELTS grammar: contrasts

In the table below you will find information about some important ways of expressing contrasts in English.

Contrast words	Examples	Usage
but	The king was angry, but he did not kill the queen.	general and informal
however	The king was angry. He did not, however , kill the queen.	more formal and emphatic
still	The king was angry. However , he did not kill the queen.	more emphatic still
even so	The king was angry. Still , he did not kill the queen.	informal concession
nevertheless	The king was angry, but even so he did not kill the queen.	emphatic concession
although, though	The king was angry. He nevertheless did not kill the queen.	formal and emphatic concession
even though	The king was angry. Nevertheless , he did not kill the queen.	more emphatic still
	(Al)Though the king was angry, he did not kill the queen.	alternative form for concession
	Even though the king was angry, he did not kill the queen.	more emphatic

Practice these variations by transforming the following sentences:

- a. Cats are domestic animals, but they are not so completely domestic as dogs.
- b. The ancient Egyptians were the first people to keep cats, but they did not keep them as pets.
- c. Horses are useful animals, but they are not more useful than cows.
- d. It was not a big town, but to the child it seemed to have more houses than there were stars in the sky.
- e. The original Ulysses was an ancient Greek hero, but Maclean's Ulysses is a ship.