

A quieter place to study

Teacher notes · version 1

Purpose: learners can make a reasoned recommendation while acknowledging uncertainty. All names, figures and survey results are fictional, not research claims. The warm-up has no single ranking. Preteach only vocabulary the learner needs; fourteen items are a resource, not a memorization target. Read first for the two proposals, then distinguish stated facts, possible consequences and missing evidence. The survey question should elicit limits on generalization, not require statistical terminology. Teach the common although + clause and despite + noun/-ing patterns; despite the fact that + clause is also valid but is not the main target. In the role play, ask each speaker to fairly restate the other view before negotiating. Success: a clear proposal, a passage-based reason, an explicit drawback and relevant evidence for reconsideration; at least one accurate contrast structure. Support by reducing the choice to A versus B; extend with a feasible compromise. Text, examples and tasks are original; grammar references and CEFR descriptors inform editorial choices. There has been no teacher-led trial.

Answers belong to these teacher notes, not the student scene. This is an editorial release; it has not yet been trialed with a teacher and learner.

Evidence, contrast and judgment

1. Does the survey establish that most potential users prefer B? Why or why not?

Answer / criteria: No. Twenty-four of forty respondents preferred B, but respondents were current visitors and were not shown to represent all potential users. Working hours were not asked about and former visitors were omitted.

2. Rewrite using despite: Although the room is small, it can serve different groups.

Answer / criteria: Despite the small room, it can serve different groups; or Despite being small, the room can serve different groups. Accept an equivalent grammatical version that keeps the contrast and a clear subject.

3. Correct: Despite of the timetable is clear, it may exclude evening users.

Answer / criteria: Although the timetable is clear, it may exclude evening users. Or: Despite the clear timetable, it may exclude evening users. Remove “of” and choose the correct complement pattern.

4. Recommend A or B and name one finding that would make you reconsider.

Answer / criteria: Either is defensible. Require a reason grounded in the passage, an acknowledged drawback and a relevant observable finding, such as frequent unused reservations under A or evening users repeatedly unable to find quiet under B. Do not invent a trial result.

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Cambridge English Grammar Today — In spite of and despite, section on noun and -ing complements — <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/in-spite-of-and-despite>

Council of Europe — CEFR levels, section “The CEFR Levels” — <https://www.coe.int/en/web/common-european-framework-reference-languages/level-descriptions>