

THE THREE THOUGHTS

Even though

Although

Though you know the word, its use sometimes confuses you.

The word sometimes confuses you **though** you know its meaning.

although

even though

SIMILARITIES

- All three follow the standard **comma rules** (IC DC) & (DC, IC) as they are all subordinating conjunctions.
- The three conjunctions express the same meaning: **contradiction** to the main (independent) clause.
- They make the independent clause seem more surprising and unlikely (**despite**).

***Although** it was raining terribly, we decided to go for our hike anyway.*

*He enrolled in a university in Paris even **though** he didn't know how to speak French.*

Or they balance or reduce the effect of the independent clause (**but, however**).

***Even though** their teachers probably know the answer, many students won't ask questions.*

*Our supervisor wants us to come in on Sunday **though** nobody knows why.*

DIFFERENCES

- The main **difference** in their ability to emphasize contradiction above by their increasing size. Originally, the "even" and reduced "all" were added for **emphatic force**. Though the perception of this force has been reduced in usage, it is still present on a subconscious level and arguably maintained by the mere presence of the extra syllables.
- **Though** and **although** (but **not** even though) can be added to non-restrictive elements, like adjectives and participial phrases.

*He worked on it all year, **though** sporadically, until he was finished.*

***Though** older, he seems as energetic as when I first meet him.*

*The school, **although** ordered to, did not turn over their records.*

*The students, **though** studying for their exams, were told to report to the gymnasium.*

*I was able to figure it out, **though** slowly.*

- **Though** is different than the other two as it can be used as an adverbial "**however**" to contradict a previous statement made by someone else or themselves. This use is informal and spoken. It also always takes the end position and the comma is optional.

*The word sometimes confuses me. I know it's meaning **though**.*

*It was very difficult. I managed to succeed **though**.*

A: I thought you weren't going to buy that.

*B: I ended up changing my mind, **though**.*

