

Ask about English

Though



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BBC Learning English – Ask about English

A question from Raphael Gorgy:

I have a little question about *though*. I'm not sure of its many meanings. Sometimes it is in the middle of a sentence and sometimes at the end of a sentence and I get confused.

George Pickering replies:

Thank you Raphael for your interesting question.

Yes, it's true, you can put *though* at the beginning, in the middle and at the end of sentences.

We can use *though*, and *although*, or *even though* at the beginning of a subordinate clause to mark a contrast with the idea in the main clause. For example:
'Even though he didn't have much time, he stopped to help the old lady.'

We can change the order of the two clauses and say:
'He stopped to help the old lady, even though he didn't have much time.'

In these examples, *though* means 'despite the fact that'.

We can also put *though* at the end of the contrasting clause. For example:
'I still find English hard to understand; I can understand more than last year, though!'

When placed at the end of a sentence like this, *though* means 'nevertheless' or 'however'.

Audio available online at:

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