

What are adversative conjunctions?

Worksheet

Adversative conjunctions (pourtant, néanmoins, cependant, toutefois) link contrasting ideas — all meaning 'however/yet', they differ slightly in register and emphasis.

Questions

1. 'Il est malade, _____ il va travailler.' Choose the conjunction.

- A) car
- B) et
- C) pourtant
- D) parce que

2. 'L'examen est difficile, néanmoins...' What follows?

- A) everyone will fail
- B) many passed
- C) it's easy
- D) exams are good

3. Which is most formal?

- A) pourtant
- B) cependant
- C) néanmoins
- D) toutefois

4. 'She is rich; _____, she is unhappy.' Which fits?

- A) car
- B) donc
- C) cependant
- D) et

5. The hotel is far from the center; nevertheless, it is comfortable.

néanmoins, il est confortable.

L'hôtel est loin du centre;

6. She didn't study much, yet she passed the exam.

elle a réussi.

Elle n'a pas beaucoup étudié, pourtant

7. He is shy; however, he enjoys public speaking.

public.

Il est timide; cependant, il aime parler en

8. Define: What does pourtant mean?

9. Define: When use néanmoins vs. cependant?

10. Define: Do adversative conjunctions need commas?

Answer Key

1. C) pourtant — pourtant (yet) shows the contrast between being sick and going to work.
2. B) many passed — néanmoins signals a contrasting (positive) outcome despite difficulty.
3. C) néanmoins — néanmoins is the most formal adversative conjunction.
4. C) cependant — cependant (however) contrasts wealth with unhappiness.
5. 'far' suggests negative, but 'comfortable' contradicts néanmoins = nevertheless (formal)
Connects expectation (far = bad) with reality (comfortable = good)
6. pourtant = yet/still Contrasts 'didn't study' with 'passed' Expresses surprise at the outcome
7. cependant = however (middle register) Contrasts personality trait with stated action Shows unexpected behavior
8. Yet, still — shows contrast or surprise.
9. néanmoins is formal; cependant is neutral; both mean 'however'.
10. Yes, typically: 'Idea A, pourtant, idea B' or 'Idea A; pourtant idea B.'

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