

Word for Word

Although “Although” and “Though” Mean the Same Thing, Only One Is Preferred in Scientific Writing—Which One, Though?

Although and *though* are both conjunctions meaning “in spite of the fact that”.^{1,2} The two words are considered interchangeable.³

Examples:

Although it was raining, we enjoyed our visit to the park.

Though it was raining, we enjoyed our visit to the park.

Though is considered more informal than *although*, as it is a shortened form of the word. Therefore, *although* is generally preferred in scientific writing.

Acceptable:

Though external-beam radiotherapy is a standard treatment approach in patients with prostate cancer, acute side effects can limit its use.

Preferred:

Although external-beam radiotherapy is a standard treatment approach in patients with prostate cancer, acute side effects can limit its use.

Acceptable:

Chemotherapy-induced neuropathy, though common in cancer patients, is not well understood.

Preferred:

Chemotherapy-induced neuropathy, although common in cancer patients, is not well understood.

Though is also an adverb, meaning “however” or “nevertheless”.² When used as an adverb, *though* is most commonly placed at the end of a clause or sentence, although it can also appear in

the middle of the sentence, separated by commas. This use is more common in speech or informal communication. In scientific writing, it is acceptable to use *though* in an informal opinion or communication piece, but *however* and *nevertheless* are better choices in a research article or grant proposal.

Examples:

What the average American is being told about COVID-19 prevention today is quite different from what they were told a few years ago, though.

In our experience, though, the treatment was effective.

Acceptable:

The patient's condition improved after surgical excision; further treatment may be required, though.

Preferred:

The patient's condition improved after surgical excision; however, further treatment may be required.

Even though is a more emphatic form of *although* or *though* that is acceptable in scientific writing.

Some patients continue to use tobacco products, even though the health risks of doing so are well established.

-- Ann Sutton

References

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3. Frey T, Young RK. Correct and preferred usage. In *AMA Manual of Style*, 11th ed. New York, NY: Oxford University Press; 2020. Accessed October 31, 2023. <https://academic.oup.com/amamanualofstyle/book/27941/chapter/207567296>
4. Merriam-Webster.com. Even though. Accessed November 1, 2023. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/even%20though>