

STUDY ENGLISH

IELTS PREPARATION

TRANSCRIPT

EPISODE 18: OUTBACK TOURISM

Hello. I'm Margot Politis. Welcome to Study English, IELTS preparation.

Today we'll practise using 'hyphens' in words, and talk about showing contrast using the words 'despite', 'although' and 'but'.

But first, we visit outback Australia and an isolated place called Marree. We'll see how the popularity of four-wheel drive cars has meant that a lot more people are travelling through the outback, and now they're even building luxury accommodation there.

685 kilometres north of Adelaide on the Oodnadatta Track is Marree. When the old Ghan railway closed in the 1980s it just about vanished off the map.



But despite the isolation and the population dwindling to just 80, an out-of-towner is now making a million-dollar investment.

Robynne Taylor bought the 120-year-old pub three years ago and is about to build a two-storey guesthouse next door.

As well as a huge function room, it will have 14 luxury ensuite apartments and is costing one and a half million dollars. The driving force behind the boom is four-wheel drives.

Sometimes we join two or more words together to function as a single word or concept.

We call these *compound words*.

An example is 'father-in-law'.

Compound words can function as *nouns* – like father-in-law – or they can be *adjectives*.

Here's a clip about the isolated town Maree. See if you can spot the compound words.

But despite the isolation and the population dwindling to just 80, an out-of-towner is now making a million-dollar investment.

She says: 'out-of-towner' and 'million-dollar investment.'

Here, 'out-of-towner' functions as a *noun*, a person who is from out of town.

When writing compound words, we use *hyphens*.

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In the phrase ‘million-dollar investment’, the compound ‘million-dollar’ functions as an *adjective*.

It means that the investment will cost a million dollars.

When you write ‘a million dollars’, the word ‘dollars’ is a *noun*. The ‘s’ is needed to show a plural number.

In English, *adjectives* don’t show number, so the ‘s’ drops from dollar. We just say ‘million-dollar investment’, not ‘million-dollars investment’.

When the phrase ‘a million dollars’ becomes an adjective, it needs to have a hyphen added:

‘a million dollars’, ‘a million-dollar investment’.

‘Million-dollar’, with a hyphen is a *compound word*.

Let’s listen for another example.

Robynne Taylor bought the 120-year-old pub three years ago and is about to build a two-storey guesthouse next door.

She talks about the ‘120 year old pub’.

“The pub is 120 years old.”

Notice that the phrase doesn’t use hyphens, and ‘years’ has an ‘s’.

But when we turn it into a phrase, it becomes: ‘a 120-year-old pub’, with hyphens, and with the ‘s’ gone.

She also refers to a ‘two-storey guesthouse’.

“The guesthouse has two storeys”.

“It’s a two-storey guesthouse.”

Let’s listen to a description of the guesthouse.

As well as a huge function room, it will have 14 luxury ensuite apartments and is costing one and a half million dollars.

She says: “The guesthouse will have 14 luxury ensuite apartments and is costing one and a half million dollars.”

We don’t use any hyphens with these group of words, because they don’t make up a compound concept.



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'Apartments' is the *noun* and '14', 'luxury' and 'ensuite' are the *qualifiers*.

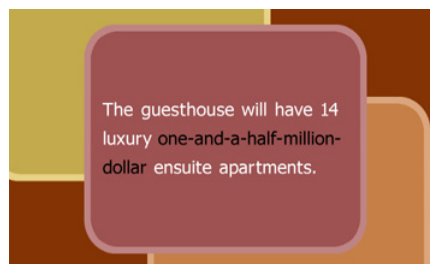
This is a *noun phrase*.

We could rewrite this information to use hyphens.

We could form a single concept from 'one and a half million dollars'.

"The guesthouse will have 14 luxury one-and-a-half-million-dollar ensuite apartments."

Then the physical description would be a single concept. We would join 'one-and-a-half-million-dollar' with hyphens.



It's important to remember that compound adjectives, like all adjectives, cannot have a plural form.

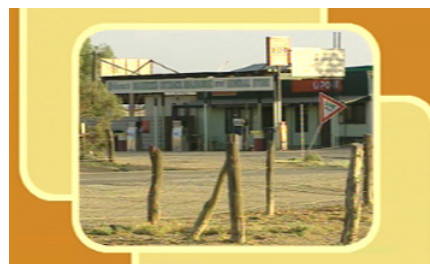
This is important when describing complex data, like in task 1 of the IELTS writing test.

The town in today's story is called Maree.

Maree is a very isolated town, but something unexpected is happening there.

Although the town is very small and far from the city, someone is prepared to invest a lot of money there.

But despite the isolation and the population dwindling to just 80, an out-of-towner is now making a million-dollar investment.



Despite the isolation and the population dwindling to 80, an out-of-towner is making a million-dollar investment.

She uses the *preposition* 'despite'.

She could also have used the word 'although'.

Despite and 'although' have the same meaning. They show contrast with unexpected results.

Let's try an exercise. Here are two sentences.

"Margaret's marks were low."

"She managed to get into law school."

How would you join these sentences together using 'but' 'despite' or 'although'?

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Let's start with 'but'.

"Margaret's marks were low, but she managed to get into law school."

Now, let's use 'although'.

"Although Margaret's marks were low, she managed to get into law school."



We can also join the sentences using 'despite.'

"Despite having low marks, Margaret managed to get into law school."

'Despite' can be followed by a *noun*.



We can say: 'despite the isolation' or 'despite the fact I had a cold'.

Or it can be followed by a *verb*. When it's followed by a verb, we use the *participle form*.

For example: "despite being isolated" or "despite having a cold".

Let's finish with one final exercise.

Take a look at these two sentences:

"There was noise outside all night."
"I managed to sleep."

How would you join them using the word 'but'?

"There was noise outside all night, but I managed to sleep."

Now, look at the two sentences again. How would you join them using 'although'?

"Although there was noise outside all night, I managed to sleep."

And, finally, how would you join these two sentences using 'despite'?

"Despite the noise outside all night, I managed to sleep."

Using the words 'despite' and 'although' effectively will help improve your spoken and written English.

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And that's all for Study English today.

Let's have a look back at the things we've talked about.

First, we looked at using *hyphens* to create *compound words*.

Then, we looked at using 'but', 'although' and 'despite' to join sentences.

And despite the fact that Study English has finished for today, you can continue to practice your English skills. Just visit our website for more information and IELTS tips.

I'll see you next time. Bye bye.

