

## “I just don’t understand: my employees keep on ignoring the tasks I assign to them, despite I’ve always treated them nicely!”

1. Look at the sentence above. Is it correct?
2. Look at the concordance lines below, taken from [www.wordandphrase.info](http://www.wordandphrase.info) (NB: a “concordance” is a list of examples taken from a corpus – a collection of texts stored electronically)

34	NEWS	European Union countries have decriminalized <b>marijuana</b> . #	Despite	harsh	penalties	and	perhaps because of forbidden-fruit appeal
35	MAG	which hauled in nearly \$ 1 5 billion <b>in</b> 2009 <b>sales</b>	despite	having	become	a	repeat target for state and federal prosecutors
36	MAG	I just ran CHKDSK , and it told <b>me</b> that ,	despite	having	loaded	a	pile of memory-hungry device drivers and TSRs , I
37	MAG	half the time , says Brazeale . That <b>and</b> <b>perseverance</b> :	despite	having	the	phone	slammed down in their ear numerous times when
38	NEWS	jobs , getting maybe 20 hours of sleep <b>a</b> <b>week</b> .	Despite	her	labors		she has \$ 30,000 in student-loan debt and does
39	FIC	thought about it again . // Banger 's <b>mother</b> Plummy ,	despite	her	name	with	its suggestion of round vowels and luxe towels ,
40	MAG	in the Northwest , decimating hundreds of small <b>timber</b> <b>towns</b> .	Despite	her	perseverance		though , Cobb is n't optimistic about the
41	ACAD	. " The child 's mother soon found <b>her</b> , but	despite	her	protests		the child refused to leave her former owner .
42	FIC	pronounced the name Verdie . Eventually , so <b>did</b> Penny ,	despite	her	sense	of	how things ought to be . Still . Had
43	FIC	extends a cuffed hand) Shake a paw ? <b>She</b> <b>laughs</b>	despite	her	tears		puts her cuffed hands over his head and hugs
44	FIC	's going to be a noisy night , <b>though</b> . "	Despite	himself		Dex	gave a snorting , derisive laugh . " Tell
45	NEWS	November 7 . # . # TODAY : <b>Frank</b> Jordan --	Despite	his	administration	's	successes , he remains to some a
46	MAG	) congratulate Hawking . Reuters/Co.bis-Bettmann <b>Photograph</b>	Despite	his	affliction		Hawking leads an active life . He and his
74	NEWS	down the stretch , but scored six goals <b>in</b> the <b>playoffs</b>	despite	linemates	who	did	next to nothing . B # STEVE REINPRECHT #
75	ACAD	notables survived with their influence <b>relatively</b> <b>intact</b> ,	despite	losing	all	their	property on the Israeli side of the Green Line
76	NEWS	happily , did n't press his case . # <b>Bollettieri</b> ,	despite	losing	Venus	Williams	denied suggestions that she is more
77	NEWS	Schwarz is as big as its New York <b>flagship</b> . #	Despite	Michigan	Avenue	's	newly found festive atmosphere , not
78	NEWS	Cleveland) in the AL . # The <b>big</b> <b>arms</b> :	Despite	missing	more	than	two weeks , Mariners left-hander Randy
79	FIC	his pursuit of live meat . # As <b>for</b> Brandon ,	despite	Muscle	Cramp	's	terror tying him up with clinging arms and legs
80	FIC	distinctive burning -- brush scent of cannabis filled <b>the</b> <b>air</b> .	Despite	my	condition		the scent awoke pleasant memories - other and
81	FIC	more simulations work than anything else , Dam ' <b>Heikki</b> .	Despite	my	other	responsibility	. " " I beg your pardon , "
82	NEWS	and factories never will reopen . Poverty <b>remains</b> <b>oppressive</b> .	Despite	new	jobs		20.8% of West Virginians are poor vs. 14.7% nationally
83	NEWS	in sacks and held in North Korea ever <b>since</b> . #	Despite	North	Korea	's	startling admission and apology for the
84	NEWS	, and we seem to communicate pretty well . # But	despite	our	best	efforts	, tensions have risen between my daughter and
85	NEWS	in fact , sound eerily similar to the <b>NRA</b> 's <b>posturing</b>	despite	our	country	's	epidemic of gun-related violence or the tobacco
86	FIC	the pack , both of us chilled by <b>the</b> <b>mountain</b> <b>winds</b>	despite	our	thermal	blankets	, but reluctant to move into the fire tower
87	NEWS	goal -- and that was to win the <b>World</b> <b>Series</b> .	Despite	plenty	of	time	and resources , I was unable to get the
88	ACAD	OF INTERVENTION A Note on Collaboration <b>and</b> <b>Coercion</b> #	Despite	popular	belief	about	the highly conflictual nature of advocacy
89	MAG	are reading may not be as definitive as <b>they</b> <b>assume</b> .	Despite	progress	in	linking	genetic differences with disease risk and
90	ACAD	outcome of) the mode of signification she <b>employed</b> . <b>For</b>	despite	Rainer	's	claim	to be opposed to spectacular forms of dance which
91	ACAD	're fired " is a popular TV show <b>buzzword</b> , and	despite	recent	evidence	to	the contrary , the private sector has upheld
92	NEWS	companies said AEA was unhappy with Rand McNally 's <b>progress</b> ,	despite	recent	joint	ventures	including a partnership with Thales
93	ACAD	literacy in the same way that it contributes <b>to</b> <b>innumeracy</b> .	Despite	recommendations	to	make	technology " transparent , "
94	MAG	been shrinking (4% in 2001 , to <b>\$10.9</b> trillion )	despite	record	amounts	of	new investment (\$140 billion last year) .
95	ACAD	, Egypt has not ratified the BWC. (n6 ) #	Despite	refusing	to	ratify	the BWC and the fact that Egypt is believed
96	ACAD	harassing flights across the mid-point of the Taiwan <b>Strait</b> ) .	Despite	repeated	offers	by	Taiwan 's new president , Chen Shui-bian ,
97	NEWS	, N.J. , for its graphic and highly <b>detailed</b> <b>coverage</b> ,	despite	restricted	access		of the dormitory fire at Seton Hall

- What do you notice about the word types that can follow **despite**?
  - Make a word profile for **despite**. How can we use it?
3. Look at the sentence in **question 1** again. Has your answer changed? Can you improve the sentence?