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Although is a marvelous word that – alas – even professional writers sometimes use incorrectly. Train your writing radar to keep a mental lookout for *although*, and follow these simple rules:

1. Never put a comma after *although*.

Beware of writing something like this:

I decided to accept the job offer. Although, I had some doubts about the company's stability. INCORRECT

Here's the correct version:

I decided to accept the job offer although I had some doubts about the company's stability. CORRECT

You could also write it this way:

I decided to accept the job offer. However, I had some doubts about the company's stability. CORRECT

2. Always attach an *although* idea to a complete sentence. Anything that starts with *although* is an extra idea. It can't stand alone: You have to attach it to a complete sentence. (Think of a garage – nice to have, but you need a house to go with it.)

Although I had some doubts about the company's stability. I decided to accept the job offer. INCORRECT

Although I had some doubts about the company's stability, I decided to accept the job offer. CORRECT

3. Yes, you can start a sentence with *although*! If you start a sentence with an *although* idea, end the idea with a comma, and follow it with a real sentence.

Suppose you wrote "Although the hurricane was headed our way." This is an extra idea that can't end with a period. What to do? Your first choice is to end it with a comma and add a real sentence. (Think garage + house, as I mentioned earlier.)

Here's what you might have when you're finished: Although the hurricane was headed our way last night, early this morning it turned north and missed Florida completely. CORRECT

NAME: _____

YEAR: _____

DUE DATE: 06/09/21

1. I believe in ghosts, but I don't have any evidence that they exist.

2. I moved to the USA, but I still keep in touch with my friends in Korea.

3. Craig is sick today, but he is still working very hard.

4. I hurried to the post office, but it was closed when I got there.

5. He's extremely afraid of traveling by airplane. We were able to convince him to go with us.

6. It was very cold out. We decided to go for a walk in the park.
