

Review Sheet – Uses of still

Designed for an intermediate (B-level) English learner

#	Function / Meaning	Typical Position in the Sentence	Example (plain English)	Example (legal-focused)
1	Continuing situation (temporal)—"up to now / even now"	Before the main verb (or after <i>be</i>)	<i>She still lives in Berlin.</i>	<i>The defendant still maintains his innocence.</i>
2	Even though (concessive) – “despite what might be expected”	Often after the verb <i>be</i> or at the start of a clause	<i>It’s raining, but we’ll still go out.</i>	<i>The witness was tired, yet still gave a clear statement.</i>
3	Emphasis / intensifier – “very, absolutely” (colloquial)	Before adjectives/adverbs, sometimes before nouns	<i>He’s still angry.</i>	<i>The prosecution’s case is still strong.</i>
4	In questions – asking whether a situation continues	After the auxiliary verb or at the end of the clause	<i>Are you still working here?</i>	<i>Is the client still under investigation?</i>
5	In negatives – “not yet” (often paired with <i>not</i>)	After <i>not</i> or before the verb in a negative clause	<i>She hasn’t still arrived.</i> (less common)	More natural: <i>She hasn’t arrived yet.</i>

6	With “as ... as” – “no longer” (archaic/poetic)	In comparative structures	<i>He is still as brave as ever.</i>	<i>The law remains still as strict as it was in 1995.</i>
7	In idioms – fixed expressions	Fixed position	<i>still waters run deep</i>	<i>The case is still in limbo</i>

Detailed Explanation & Sample Sentences

1. Continuing Situation (Temporal)

- **Structure:** *subject + still + verb* (or *still* after *be*).
- **Meaning:** Something that began earlier **continues** at the present moment.
- **Examples:**
 - *The contract **still** applies.*
 - *The appeal **still** awaits a decision.*

2. Concessive “Even Though”

- **Structure:** Often *still* follows a clause that suggests a change, but the clause after *still* shows the opposite.
- **Meaning:** “Despite that, the result is unchanged.”
- **Examples:**
 - *The evidence was weak, **still** the jury convicted.*

- *The law is old, **still** it is enforced rigorously.*

3. Intensifier / Emphasis

- **Structure:** *still* before an adjective/adverb.
- **Meaning:** Adds force, similar to “very” or “completely.” (Mostly informal.)
- **Examples:**
 - *The defendant is **still** reckless.*
 - *That argument is **still** convincing.*

4. Question Form

- **Structure:** *auxiliary + still + subject + verb?* or *subject + still + verb?*
- **Purpose:** Checks whether a condition persists.
- **Examples:**
 - *Is the subpoena **still** active?*
 - *Are you **still** representing the client?*

5. Negative Contexts

- **Note:** Native speakers rarely use *still* directly after *not*; they prefer *yet*.
- **Correct form:** *hasn't arrived **yet*** rather than *hasn't **still***.
- **If used:** *She **still hasn't** responded.* (Here *still* modifies the negative verb phrase.)

6. Comparative “as ... as”

- **Structure:** *still* placed before the adjective in a comparison.
- **Meaning:** Emphasizes that the quality remains unchanged.
- **Examples:**
 - *The policy is **still** as restrictive as before.*

7. Idiomatic Expressions

- **Examples:**
 - *still waters run deep* – quiet people may have deep thoughts.
 - *still in limbo* – awaiting a decision.

Quick Practice (fill-in-the-blank)

1. The contract _____ (continue) to bind both parties.
2. Even though the evidence was thin, the jury _____ (convict) the accused.
3. _____ (question) you _____ (still) represent the client?
4. The law is _____ (as strict as) it was in 2000.

Answers

1. *still applies / still binds*
2. *still convicted* (concessive) – more natural: *still found him guilty*
3. *Are you still representing the client?*
4. *still as strict as*

Tips for Using “still”

- **Check the time frame:** If you mean “up to now,” use the temporal sense.
- **Look for contrast:** If the clause before *still* suggests a change, you’re likely using the concessive sense.
- **Avoid “still” in formal negatives:** Prefer *yet* (“has not arrived yet”).
- **Legal writing:** The temporal and concessive uses are most common (“the injunction is still in effect”; “the witness was tired, yet still testified clearly”).