

”But” statements

HSK 5

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

反而 (on the contrary / instead)

■ Name the expectation that was reversed

- A promised explanation made a problem more confusing.
- 他解释后, 我反而更不明白了。 – The result is the reverse of the expected increase in understanding.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is 反而 (on the contrary / instead). Locate it in the original interlinear examples below.
- Keep the words in their demonstrated positions; the pattern must fit the intended situation as well as the sentence form.

吃了药, 反而更难受。

chī le yào fǎn ér gèng nán shòu

Word guide: 吃 – take; 药 – medicine; 反而 – instead; 更 – more; 难受 – unwell.

■ Read examples in context

- In the opening example, 他解释后, 我反而更不明白了。: The result is the reverse of the expected increase in understanding.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Identify the expectation before translating 反而.
- The result need not be objectively bad in every example; reversal is the key relation.

■ Use the distinction

- The result is the reverse of the expected increase in understanding.
- Identify the expectation before translating 反而. The result need not be objectively bad in every example; reversal is the key relation.

■ Try it with help closed

A promised explanation made a problem more confusing. Close the examples. Say a Mandarin response, then write it in Chinese. Explain briefly in English what the lesson’s pattern adds. Compare with the model, then change one detail and try again.

One possible response: 他解释后, 我反而更不明白了。

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Identify the expectation before translating 反而.
- The result need not be objectively bad in every example; reversal is the key relation.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.