

Comparing similar conjunctions

HSK 3 Grammar

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.

vs (or: question vs statement)

■ An embedded question still asks for a choice

- You do not know which drink a guest prefers.
- – keeps the alternative choice inside the statement of uncertainty.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **vs (or: question vs statement)**. 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.

nǐ hē chá hái shì kā fēi

Word guide: – you; – drink; – tea; – or; – coffee.

■ Read examples in context

chá huò zhě kā fēi dōu xíng

Word guide: – tea; – or; – coffee; – both; – fine.

- In the opening example, : keeps the alternative choice inside the statement of uncertainty.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- Compare , a statement offering acceptable options.
- Choose for an alternative question, including an embedded one, rather than using the whole sentence’s final punctuation alone.

■ Use the distinction

- keeps the alternative choice inside the statement of uncertainty.
- Compare , a statement offering acceptable options. Choose for an alternative question, including an embedded one, rather than using the whole sentence’s final punctuation alone.

■ Try it with help closed

You do not know which drink a guest prefers. 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:

- My response conveys a message that fits the opening situation.
- I can explain the meaning of the pattern, rather than only naming it.
- Compare , a statement offering acceptable options.
- Choose for an alternative question, including an embedded one, rather than using the whole sentence’s final punctuation alone.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.