

Comparing similar time words

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 vs (then / after)

■ A plan's next step differs from a later story

- You first eat and then plan to study; later you describe what actually happened.
- – gives the next step, while introduces the later part of the account.

■ Build the form

- The pattern in this lesson is **vs vs (then / after)**. 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.

xiān chī fàn rán hòu shuì jiào

Word guide: – first; – eat; – then; – sleep.

■ Read examples in context

hòu lái wǒ men méi qù

Word guide: – later; – we; – not; – go.

- In the opening example, : gives the next step, while introduces the later part of the account.
- Explain who acts, what is described and which time or group is relevant before choosing an English paraphrase.

■ Know the boundary

- can follow a reference event: .
- A future plan does not normally use to mean next; choose from temporal relationship, not the shared English word then.

■ Use the distinction

- gives the next step, while introduces the later part of the account.
- can follow a reference event: . A future plan does not normally use to mean next; choose from temporal relationship, not the shared English word then.

■ Try it with help closed

You first eat and then plan to study; later you describe what actually happened. 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.
- can follow a reference event: .
- A future plan does not normally use to mean next; choose from temporal relationship, not the shared English word then.
- I tried a second response with a name, time, place, or description changed.

Practise this pattern step by step.