

Comparing similar separate functions

Ref Hsk4 Grammar

vs — “instead” vs “the opposite”

is an **adverb** (“instead, on the contrary”) that sits before the verb inside one sentence. is an **adjective / conjunction** meaning “(the) opposite” — it links or opens a sentence, or describes a thing as opposite.

{zh: |chī|eating / |shuǐ guǒ|fruit / |bú dàn|not only / |méi|no / |hǎo chu|benefit / , |fǎn ér|instead / |yǒu|has / |huài chu|harm}

Eating fruit not only does no good — instead it does harm.

{zh: |wǒ|my / |de / |xiǎng fǎ|idea / |gēn / |tā|his / |xiāng fǎn|the opposite / 。 }

My idea is the opposite of his.

Remember: = an **ADVERB** (“instead,” before the verb), marking a **contrary RESULT**; = “the opposite” (... , or ... , ... “on the contrary,”). One does a job inside the clause; the other names or links an opposite.

Watch out

- You can’t swap them: ✓ (adverb), ✓ (adjective) — but not .

vs vs — “sure / certainly”

Three “certainty” words, three jobs: = “definitely / to affirm” (a confident assertion). = “be sure / confirm” — certainty you’ve **checked**. = “certainly / be sure to” — an **expectation or insistence**.

{zh: |nǐ|you / |què dìng|sure / |tā|he / |huì|will / |lái|come / |ma / ? }

Are you sure he’ll come?

{zh: |tā|he / |kěn dìng|definitely / |huì|will / |lái|come / 。 }

He’ll definitely come.

Remember: asserts a fact confidently; is certainty you’ve **VERIFIED**; is expectation/insistence. = “will *surely* come” (expecta-

tion); = “be *sure to* be careful” (insistence); ? = “are you *sure* (have you checked)?”.

Watch out

- is about *your own* checked certainty; asserts the fact itself.

vs — “to suit” vs “suitable”

Same two characters, flipped — and the flip changes the grammar. is a **verb** (“to suit”) and takes an object. is an **adjective** (“suitable”) and behaves like other adjectives (,).

{zh: |zhè ge|this / |yán sè|colour / |bù|doesn’t / |shì hé|suit / |tā|him / 。 }

This colour doesn’t suit him.

{zh: |hēi sè|black / |cái|is / |shì / |zuì|the most / |hé shì|suitable / |de / 。 }

Black is the most suitable.

Remember: = **VERB + object** (, “suits me”); = **ADJECTIVE** (, , **no object**). The character order is the giveaway: takes an object, describes.

Watch out

- Don’t give an object: ✓ but × → / .