

”But” Statements

Ref Hsk5 Grammar

..... , 反而 — “on the contrary, instead”

反而 flags a result that runs **against expectation** — “on the contrary, instead, actually.” It’s an **adverb**, so it sits **after the subject and before the verb** (unlike the conjunction **但是**, which leads). It’s often the second half of a **不但 / 不仅 + 没 ... 反而 ...** frame.

Structure: , Subject + 反而 + Unexpected Outcome

{zh: 吃 |chī|taking / 了 |le / 药 |yào|the medicine / , 病 |bìng|the illness / 反而 |fǎn ér|actually / 更 |gèng|even / 严重 |yán zhòng|worse / 了 |le / 。 }

After taking the medicine, the illness actually got worse.

{zh: 他 |tā|he / 不但 |bú dàn|not only / 没 |méi|didn’t / 放弃 |fàng qì|give up / , 反而 |fǎn ér|but actually / 更 |gèng|even / 努力 |nǔ lì|harder / 了 |le / 。 }

Far from giving up, he actually worked even harder.

Remember: 反而 = “instead, the opposite of what you’d expect” — an adverb tucked *after the subject* (他反而 ..., never 反而他 ...). It often completes the frame 不但/不仅 + 没/不 ..., 反而 ... (“far from ...ing, actually ...”).

Watch out

- Don’t lead the sentence with it like English “instead” — it sits before the verb, inside the clause.