

Comparing similar nouns

Ref Hsk6 Grammar

vs. — “each other” vs. “the other party”

Both can translate as “each other,” but they pull in different directions. is **reciprocal** — “one another, both sides, mutually” — and can sit right before a verb like (= “trust each other”). points to **the other specific party** — the single counterpart facing you — and can’t go before a verb that way. may follow / / ; cannot.

Structure: + Verb · + Noun (= the other side)

{zh: |wǒ men|we / |yīng gāi|should / |bǐ cǐ|each other / |xìn rèn|trust / 。 }

We should trust each other.

{zh: |nǐ|you / |yào|should / |tīng tīng|listen to / |duì fāng|the other side’s / |de / |yì jiàn|view / 。 }

You should hear the other side’s view.

Remember: = reciprocal “each other” (works before a verb, like :); = **the one SPECIFIC counterpart** (“the other side”:). = mutual flow both ways; = the person across the table.

Watch out

- is a *noun* (the other party) — it can’t sit before a verb the way / do.

vs. — “others / them” vs. “other people”

Both refer to people other than the speaker, but is the neutral one — “other people, someone else.” is colloquial and often **specific or emotionally coloured**: it can mean “they / that person (you know who),” and even a coy “I / me.” In plain “other people” sentences the two are interchangeable; only carries the extra coloured uses.

Structure: + ... (neutral) · + ... (colloquial, often specific / coy)

{zh: |bié rén|other people’s / |de / |shì|business / |nǐ|you / |bié|don’t / |guǎn|meddle in / 。 }

Don’t meddle in other people’s business.

{zh: |rén jia|they’ve / |dōu|already / |bù|stopped / |lǐ|paying attention to / |nǐ|you / |le / , |nǐ|and you / |hái|still / |shuō|keep talking / 。 }

They’ve already stopped paying you any attention, and you keep on.

Remember: = neutral “other people”; = colloquial & often SPECIFIC or charged (“they / that person — you know who,” even a coy “me”). (anyone’s business) vs (*they* — pointedly — ignore you). carries feeling; doesn’t.

Watch out

- can mean a coy “I / me” (, “I don’t want to”) — never can.