# HSK 5 Grammar 13: But" statements

HSK 5 反而 for an unexpected result, taught from the reviewed topic handout; classroom examples, not official exam items.

# The sweeter cake that tasted worse

Expectation: more sugar will make the cake taste better.

What really happened: friends
take one bite and reach for water.

反而 marks that real result going the other way.

# Where 反而 goes

1. **The expectation** 大家以为降价能吸引顾客，Everyone thought a lower price would attract customers,
2. **Subject, then 反而**销量反而下降了。but sales actually fell.
3. **With 更**反而 + 更 + verb or adjective: 去的人反而更多了。

## Decision

反而 is an adverb: after the subject, before the verb. 他反而 …… is right; 反而他 …… is wrong.

# Far from it: 不但没 …… 反而 ……

## Not what happened, then what happened instead

面试很不顺利，他不仅不灰心，反而更仔细地准备下一次面试。

Miànshì hěn bú shùnlì, tā bùjǐn bù huīxīn, fǎn'ér gèng zǐxì de zhǔnbèi xià yí cì miànshì.

The interview went badly. Far from losing heart, he prepared even more carefully.

## Notice

不但 or 不仅 + 没 or 不 says what did not happen; 反而 introduces what happened instead.

# 但是 links, 反而 surprises

## Expected result — 但是 alone

他很累，但是他回家睡觉了。

Tired, so he slept: no surprise.

## Unexpected result — add 反而

他很累，但是他反而出去跑步了。

Tired, yet he went for a run: a surprise.

# Your turn: where does 反而 go?

## Your turn

His colleagues were sure he would refuse the harder task. Which sentence places 反而 correctly?

A. 反而他接受了这个更难的任务。
B. 他接受了反而这个更难的任务。
C. 他反而接受了这个更难的任务。

# Your turn: the gym fees

## Your turn

The gym raised its fees, and people expected fewer visitors. Which sentence says more people came?

A. 健身房涨了价，去的人但是更少了。
B. 健身房涨了价，去的人反而更多了。
C. 健身房涨了价，反而去的人更多了。

# Answers: against the expectation

1. **The harder task** 他反而接受了这个更难的任务。他 before 反而, 反而 before the verb.
2. **The gym** 健身房涨了价，去的人反而更多了。More visitors is the surprise.
3. **Build it** 批评了她以后，她反而更自信了。
4. **Far from it** 那台旧电脑不但没进仓库，反而被搬回了办公室。

## Decision

In the gym item, one wrong option puts 反而 before the subject; the other says fewer people, which was the expectation.

# Check yourself

## Your turn

He took medicine for his cold, but he felt even worse. Which sentence says this?

A. 他吃了感冒药，病反而更重了。
B. 他吃了感冒药，反而病更重了。
C. 他吃了感冒药，病就好了。
D. 他反而吃了感冒药，病更重了。