

”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.