



Rather than

Preference

Instead of

Substitution

As opposed to

Comparison

RATHER THAN - shows preference. It is used in 'parallel' structures. e.g - with two nouns, adjectives, adverbs, infinitives or -ing forms.

- We ought to invest in machinery **rather than** buildings. (Two nouns)
- I prefer starting early **rather than** leaving things to the last minute. (Two -ing forms)

Rather than + infinitive or ing?

When the main clause has a to - infinitive, rather than is usually followed by an infinitive without to or -ing form.

- I decided to write **rather than** phone/phoning.

At the beginning of a sentence.

When we use rather than with a verb, we use the base form or (less commonly) the -ing form of a verb:

- Rather **than** pay the taxi fare, he walked home. (or **Rather than** paying the taxi fare, he walked home.)

INSTEAD OF - suggests that one person, thing or action replaces another.

- I'll have tea **instead of** coffee, please.
- Amit was invited to the reception, but he was ill, so John went **instead of** him.
- Tickets will cost only £5, **instead of** the usual £6.50.

Instead of doing something

- I stayed in bed all day **instead of** going to work.
- **Instead of** complaining, why don't we try to change things?

AS OPPOSED TO is used to compare two things and show that they are different from each other

- An approach that is theoretical **as opposed to** practical.
- Sometimes such optimism leads you to see the world as you wish it were **as opposed to** how it really is.
- The style now is more urban, more freestyle **as opposed to** obviously choreographed.

As opposed to doing something

- Students discuss ideas, **as opposed to** just copying from books.
- Interleaving is the study of different subjects **as opposed to** studying one topic very thoroughly.