

Are you looking for material
to prepare for your
Cambridge English Exam?



RATHER THAN INSTEAD OF AS OPPOSED TO

RATHER THAN - PREFERENCE

RATHER THAN - shows preference.

It is used in 'parallel' structures. e.g - with two nouns, adjectives, adverbs, infinitives or -ing forms to express that you prefer one thing to another.

- 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 - SUBSTITUTION

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

- I'll have tea **instead of** coffee, please.
- You can go **instead of** me, if you want.
- 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 (formal) - COMPARISON/CONTRAST

AS OPPOSED TO is used to make a contrast between two things and to make it clear that you are talking about one particular thing and not something else.

- An approach that is theoretical **as opposed to** practical.
- We ate in the restaurant, **as opposed to** the bistro.
- This exercise develops suppleness **as opposed to** strength.

As opposed to doing something

- Students discuss ideas, **as opposed to** just copying from books.
- Son, I'm happy you're taking steps to improve your future, **as opposed to** just lying in bed all day.