

# Special Topic IV

on the other hand, on the contrary

# On the other hand

The misuse of this expression results from the mistranslation of 一方. It must be realized that 一方 can be used in many situations that *on the other hand* would be inappropriate.

# Main point to keep in mind

The phrase *on the other hand* is not used to change the topic. It is used to present two points of view regarding a single topic.

1. My friend Bill is always talking, and so it is sometimes tiring to be with him. On the other hand, my friend Jim is very quiet, and so being with him is very pleasant.
2. My friend Bill is always talking, and so it is sometimes tiring to be with him. On the other hand, his ideas are always interesting.

# On the contrary

The main point to remember about *on the contrary* is that it cannot be used to express contrast. It can only be used to express contradiction.

1. In this paper, we consider the high temperature case. On the contrary, Chu considered the low temperature case.
2. In this paper, we derive the result that  $A > 1$  in all cases. On the contrary, Williams found that  $A < 1$  in certain special cases.
3. However our experiments were not carried out in a strong field. On the contrary, in most cases, the effect of the field can be treated as a small perturbation.

As seen from 3, *on the contrary* is used to reassert and emphasize the meaning of the previous sentence.