

-(느)ㄴ다기보다는

rather than saying that, it is more that

Corrects a description without contradicting it. You accept that someone might put it that way, then offer a truer wording.

HOW TO ATTACH IT

Verb	- (느)ㄴ다기보다는	싸우다 → 싸운다기보다는
Adjective	- 다기보다는	싫다 → 싫다기보다는
Noun	- (이)라기보다는	취미라기보다는
Second clause	the better wording	그냥 관심이 없어요
Common partners	그냥, 오히려	... 오히려 반대에 가깝다
Comparing actions	- 기보다는	말하기보다는 듣는 편이다

WHEN TO USE IT

The ending is built on the quotative plus 기보다는. Verbs take -(느)ㄴ다기보다는, adjectives -다기보다는, nouns -(이)라기보다는.

The second clause supplies the better description, usually with 그냥, 오히려, or -(으)ㄴ 것에 가깝다: 싫다기보다는 그냥 관심이 없어요.

The value of it is social. You are softening a correction — not calling the other person wrong, only reaching for a more accurate word.

The shorter -기보다는 attaches straight to a stem and compares two actions; this one, with the quotative inside, corrects a characterisation.

IN USE

- 1 싫다기보다는 그냥 관심이 없는 쪽입니다.
It's not that I dislike it — more that I'm simply not interested.
- 2 반대한다기보다는 조금 더 검토하자는 뜻이었다.
It was less an objection than a wish to look at it further.
- 3 취미라기보다는 생활에 가깝습니다.
It is less a hobby than a way of living.
- 4 화가 났다기보다는 실망한 쪽에 가까웠다.
It was not so much anger as disappointment.
- 5 직접 만든다기보다는 조립한다고 하는 편이 맞다.
Rather than making it, it would be truer to say they assemble it.

6 어렵다기보다는 익숙하지 않을 뿐이에요.

It's not so much difficult as unfamiliar.

COMPARED WITH

-기보다는

The shorter form attaches to a stem and compares two actions. This one has the quotative inside and corrects how something was described.

말하기보다는 듣는 편이다. (I listen more than I speak) / 싫다기보다는 관심이 없다. (not dislike — indifference)

-답시고

Both quote a characterisation. 답시고 rejects it with contempt; 다기보다는 refines it politely.

돕는답시고 망쳤다. ("helping," he says) / 돕는다기보다는 함께하는 것이다. (more like joining in)

-(으)ㄴ/는 감이 있다

Both soften. 감이 있다 hedges a criticism; 다기보다는 hedges a correction. Two ways of being careful in a meeting.

이른 감이 있습니다. (feels early) / 반대한다기보다는 (not objection, exactly)

WATCH OUT

X 싫다기보다는 정말 싫어요.

O 싫다기보다는 그냥 관심이 없어요.

The second clause must offer a different, truer description. Repeating the first defeats the correction.

X 취미다기보다는 생활에 가깝습니다.

O 취미라기보다는 생활에 가깝습니다.

After a noun the quotative form is -(이)라기보다는.

X 말한다기보다는 듣는 편이다.

O 말하기보다는 듣는 편이다.

To compare two actions, the plain -기보다는 is right. The quotative form corrects a characterisation instead.