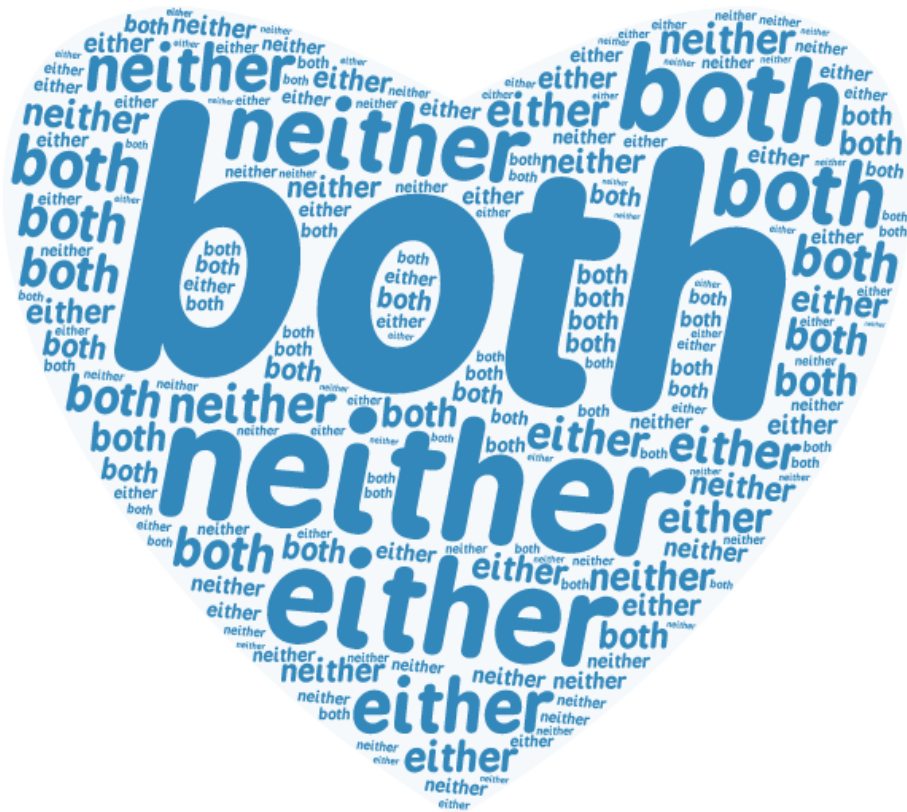




BOTH, NEITHER AND EITHER



How to use BOTH /'bəʊθ/

Both /'bəʊθ/ is

- used for two people or two things
- used in affirmative sentences
- has a positive meaning
- takes a plural verb

Notice how *both* is used

1. *Both + noun* in the plural

Both countries are in Europe

2. *Both of + object pronoun/ plural countable nouns* which have a determiner (his,the) before them

Both of them/the countries are in Europe

BOTH +	(the +) plural noun	of the/these/my/,etc + plural noun	of us/them, etc + are
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3. *Before or after the verb*

They are both in Europe/ **they both have** a high standard of living

4. *Both...and is* used when something is true for two people or things

Both my sister **and** my brother are doctors

5. You can use *both after an object pronoun*

Both my sister and my brother are doctors. I love **them both**.

How to use NEITHER /'naɪðə/ or /'niðə/

Neither is used

- to make a negative statement about two people or two things at the same time
- in affirmative sentences
- takes a plural (informal style) or a singular verb (formal style)



Notice how *neither* is used

1. *Neither*+ singular countable noun

Neither parent came to meet the teacher. (The mother didn't come and the father didn't come.)

Neither dress fitted her. (There were two dresses and not one of them fitted her.)

2. *Neither of*+ object pronoun/ plural countable nouns which have a determiner (his, the) before them.

Neither of them went to school

Neither of the boys passed the test

NEITHER +	sing. noun + is	of the/these/my/,etc + plural noun	of us/them, etc + is/are
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3. We can use *neither* on its own in replies when referring to two things that have already been mentioned.

Which one do you like best? The red one or the blue one?

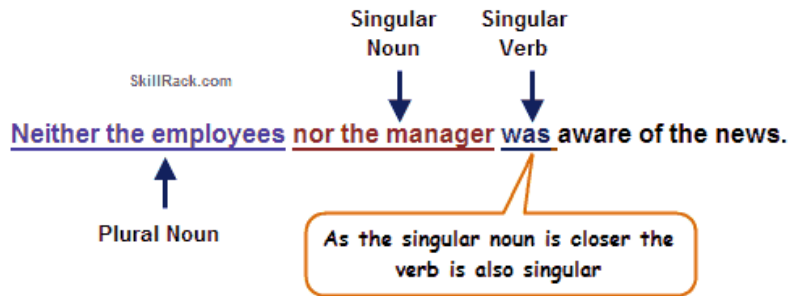
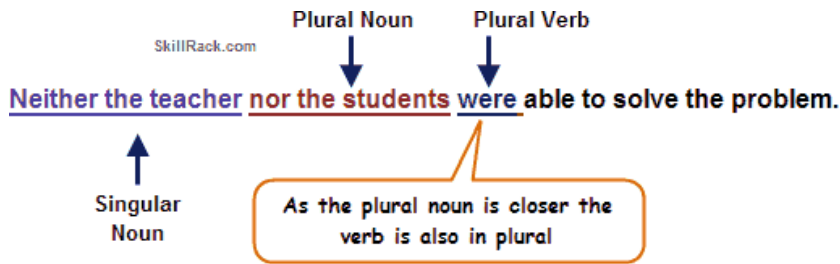
Neither. I like the green one

4. *Neither ... nor* is used when something is not true for two people or two things. The verb is always in the affirmative and normally agrees in number with the second subject.

Neither Mary nor Jim likes tennis.

Singular or plural verb?





5. *Neither do I/ neither can she (So do I/So does my sister)*

We use *neither* + auxiliary/modal verb + subject to mean 'also not'. It is used to agree with a negative statement.

A: *I can't speak Japanese.*

B: ***Neither can I.***

A: *I don't like dogs.*

B: ***Neither do I. Neither does my mother***

Not... either is also possible. A: *I can't speak Japanese* B: *I can't either*

NOTE: We use the structure "So do I/so does my sister" in the same way, but to agree with a positive statement. It means "in the same way", 'as well' or 'too'.

A: *I can speak Japanese.*

B: ***So can I.***

A: *I like dogs.*

B: ***So do I. So does my mother***

How to use EITHER /'aɪðə(r)/ or /'i:ðə(r)/

Either is used

- In affirmative sentences
- To talk about two people, things or groups



Notice how *either* is used

1. *Either + countable noun* in the singular: to talk about two choices or possibilities.

Either coat is okay, as they both suit you. (It doesn't matter which of the two coats you choose)

2. *Either of + the, these, those* or possessives (*my, your*) with a plural noun. It can be followed by either a singular or plural verb:

Either of the hotels should do; we don't mind which.

Either of these two bicycles is/are suitable for my daughter; she doesn't mind which

EITHER +	sing. noun + is	of the/these/my/,etc + plural noun is/are
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3. *Either* + a singular countable noun can mean 'both':

There were trees on **either side** of the road (both sides of the road)

4. *Either... or* is used to connect two clauses

Either we go by train **or** we rent a car. Which do you prefer?

You can live **either** with me **or** with Robert.

It takes singular or plural verb depending on the subject which follows "or"

Either my parents or Linda's **parents are** going to pick us up at the airport.

5. We can use *either* as a pronoun:

A: Which sweater do you like, the green one or the blue one?

B: I don't like **either**. (I don't like the green one and I don't like the blue one.)

6. We can use *either* as an adverb after a negative verb:

It was a really nice hotel, and it wasn't very expensive **either**.

She doesn't like eggs and she doesn't like fish **either**.

7. It's used to agree with a negative statement.

A: I don't like cheese. B: I don't like it, **either**



EXERCISES

Both, neither or either

1 Complete the following sentences with both, neither or either.

1. _____ houses are very expensive.
2. _____ of us wanted to go to the cinema.
3. Would _____ of you fancy eating out today?
4. She's _____ shy and quiet.
5. He speaks _____ Spanish nor English.
6. She hasn't seen _____ of those paintings for ages.
7. _____ of my sisters live in Asturias.
8. _____ of them want to go swimming.

2 Correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

1. I haven't seen neither of them since last week.
2. She speaks either Spanish nor French.
3. I like either of them.
4. She's either intelligent and witty.
5. Both of them is married.
6. I don't like both jackets.
7. Either of them came to our party.
8. I want to buy either bags !

Exercise 3.

1. That's enough! _____ you pay your debt to me or I take you to court.
2. When we heard the good news, we were _____ happy and excited.
3. They had _____ food to eat nor money to go to a restaurant.
4. Mr. Harrison wants to have _____ vanilla and chocolate in his ice-cream.
5. You should stop making up excuses. _____ you study hard or you will fail in the Maths exam tomorrow.
6. _____ of the two students had books with them so the teacher got very angry.
7. We have _____ bread nor cheese so we can't make a cheese sandwich.
8. She can _____ buy a laptop or a tablet pc. She has got enough money.
9. I like _____ the green and the blue t-shirt, but I don't have enough money to buy two t-shirts.
10. The sports car was _____ nice and cheap so my father decided to buy it.
11. My baby sister likes _____ soup nor spinach. She just likes milk.
12. We have some flour and eggs. We can _____ make an omelette or pancake.
13. If you want to lose weight, you should _____ do exercises and go on a diet.
14. You can _____ grow corn or wheat here in this season.
15. _____ of the two friends knew how to go to the museum so they asked the way to a policeman.
16. I think I won't be able to come to the party. _____ my father nor my mother gave me permission.
17. My friend Sophia is _____ tall and talented so she can be chosen for the



school basketball team.

18. Archie can play _____ the guitar or the drums at the concert. He can play them well.
19. _____ the teacher and the students were shocked when they saw a mouse in the classroom.
20. Mrs. Pearce was very tired when she got home. She _____ did the washing up nor vacuumed the floor. She went to bed early.

4. Write five sentences with both, neither or either of your own.

Then exchange your sentences with your partner's and correct each other's.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Source: englishsheets and pearson longman



KEY

Answers:

Exercise 1.

1 both 2 neither 3 either 4 both 5 neither 6 either 7 both 8 neither

Exercise 2.

1 I haven't seen either of them since last week. 2 She speaks neither Spanish nor French. 3 I like neither/both of them. 4 She's both intelligent and witty. 5 Neither of them is married. 6 I don't like either jackets. 7 Neither of them came to our party. 8 I want to buy both bags!

Exercise 3.

1. That's enough! **Either** you pay your debt to me or I take you to court.
2. When we heard the good news, we were **both** happy and excited.
3. They had **neither** food to eat nor money to go to a restaurant.
4. Mr. Harrison wants to have **both** vanilla and chocolate in his ice-cream.
5. You should stop making up excuses. **Either** you study hard or you will fail in the Maths exam tomorrow.
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