

Both, either, neither, so, nor

both

Form
 both + noun + and + noun
 both + adjective + and + adjective

Use Example

To emphasise that each of two things is true

Both Adam **and** Vicky said Colin was very kind.
 Simon is **both** rude **and** unkind.

To say the same thing about two things

My sister **and** I were **both** shocked by what you said.
 Jack **and** Jill **both** know lots of jokes.

Helpful hints

We sometimes use *of* with *both*. We always use this when it comes before a pronoun.
 ✓ I used to be good friends with Lisa and Mike, but I've had an argument with **both of them**.

either

Form
 either + noun + or + noun
 either + adjective + or + adjective
 either + verb + or + verb

Use Example

To talk about a choice between two things

I think I'll buy a Valentine's card with **either** a puppy **or** a kitten on it.
 I'm not sure how Tom will react – he'll be **either** happy **or** shocked!
 You can **either** tell him how you feel **or** hope he notices.

Helpful hints

We sometimes use *of* with *either*. We always use this when it comes before a pronoun.
 ✓ I really like Robert and Martin – I'll go out with **either of them**!

neither

Form
 neither + noun + nor + noun
 neither + adjective + nor + adjective
 neither + verb + nor + verb

Use Example

To emphasise that each of two negative things is true

I've got **neither** the time **nor** the energy to take up a new hobby at the moment.
 What you said to Lucy was **neither** true **nor** fair.

Helpful hints

We sometimes use *of* with *neither*. We always use this when it comes before a pronoun.
 ✓ **Neither of** us found Jason's joke funny.

so, nor

Form
 so + do/have/be/modal + subject
 nor + do/have/be/modal + subject

Use Example

To add more information to a positive statement

Lisa is really unkind, **and so** is Angela.
 You're good at listening to people, **and so** am I.

To add more information to a negative statement

My brother hasn't been invited to the party, **and nor** has his friend.
 Tom wouldn't forgive Jenny if she told everyone his secret, **and nor** would I.

Helpful hints

You can also use these structures on their own in a conversation.
 ✓ 'I like Hannah's sense of humour.'
 'So do I.'
 ✓ 'I don't find Mark funny.'
 'Nor do I.'

A If the phrase in bold in each sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is wrong, write the correct phrase.

- 1 I was surprised that **both and** Mary and Oliver were late for the meeting.
- 2 My mum said she was **both of** proud and nervous when I appeared in the school play.
- 3 Why don't **both of** you wait here while I go and see if Stuart is in?
- 4 **Both of** books have got pages missing.
- 5 Can I throw **and both** these magazines away, Derek?
- 6 When I won the race, I was **and exhausted and** happy.
- 7 Edward and Nigel **both of them** wanted to go on holiday, but they couldn't afford it.
- 8 Did **both you and** Sylvia grow up in the south of France?

B Join the two sentences using *either ... or*.

- 1 You can have ice cream for dessert. You can also have fruit.
You can
- 2 I'm considering studying maths at university and I'm considering studying physics.
I'm considering
- 3 I might play chess tonight. I might read a book.
I might
- 4 Perhaps John has forgotten about our meeting. Perhaps he's got lost.
John has
- 5 Some nights my dad cooks. Some nights he washes up.
Every night, my dad
- 6 We can order a pizza. We can order a Chinese takeaway.
We can
- 7 I might have lost the piece of paper with Dave's number on it. I might have thrown it away.
I've
- 8 You could write to your cousin. You could give her a call.
You could

C Circle the correct word.

- 1 Neither Alex **or** / **nor** Gareth knew that I'd seen them take the money.
- 2 I thought it was strange when both Ian **and** / **or** Anne left at the same time.
- 3 We could order either a chicken salad **and** / **or** a green salad.
- 4 Evi was neither embarrassed **and** / **nor** angry when Victoria told her to shut up.
- 5 Passengers can both watch recent movies and / **or** listen to great albums on many of our flights.
- 6 I have neither the money **or** / **nor** the time to go on holiday right now.

D Join the two sentences using *neither ... nor*.

- 1 Jim wasn't surprised by what I said. He wasn't shocked by what I said.
Jim
- 2 Carol doesn't have a car. She also doesn't have a motorbike.
Carol
- 3 Al doesn't play tennis. He doesn't watch it on TV.
Al
- 4 The manager wasn't very helpful. The receptionist wasn't very helpful.
Neither
- 5 Pauline couldn't read until she was seven. She also couldn't write until she was seven.
Pauline
- 6 I haven't been to Poland before. Boris hasn't been to Poland before.
Neither

E Write one word in each gap.

- June:** ... and so we went to see that new Tim Banks comedy last week.
Polly: Oh, so (1) we. What did you think? We weren't very impressed.
June: (2) were we. It wasn't very funny.
Polly: I didn't want to go, but Kevin likes that cinema. So (3) I, actually. We've been there hundreds of times.
June: The one in town? Oh, so (4) we. The ice cream there is great, and (5) is the popcorn! I could eat it all night.
Polly: Yes! So (6) !! I don't like their drinks, though.
June: Oh, no. (7) do I. Anyway, we're thinking of going to see what's on this evening.
Polly: (8) are Jack and I. Let's meet up. I don't finish work until seven.
June: (9) do I. I'll see what's on and give you a ring. I'm looking forward to it already.
Polly: So (10) I. Okay, speak to you later.

F Write what they say using the words given in the correct form. Add any other words you need and use your imagination.



1 both / enjoy / run

3 neither / like

2 have / either

4 she / go home / so / I

In spite of and although (4)

Put in *although* or *in spite of*.

- My sister got the job, although she didn't expect to.
- 1 I told the absolute truth, no one would believe me.
- 2 Daniel forgot his passport having it on his list.
- 3 it was sunny, it was quite a cold day.
- 4 The goods were never delivered the promise we had received.
- 5 Henry asked Claire to marry him the fact that he's a lot older than her.

Although, even though, in spite of and despite (1–4)

Join each pair of sentences. Be careful where you put the words in brackets.

- Nick used to smoke. He seems to be in good health. (although)
Although Nick used to smoke, he seems to be in good health.
- I couldn't sleep. I was tired. (despite)
I couldn't sleep despite being tired.
- 1 Trevor didn't notice the sign. It was right in front of him. (even though)
.....
- 2 Matthew doesn't know any French. It was one of his school subjects. (although)
.....
- 3 Henry's friend is a millionaire. He hates spending money. (despite)
.....
- 4 We couldn't get tickets. We queued for an hour. (in spite of)
.....

79b Join the sentences. Use *both ... and*, *either ... or* or *neither ... nor*.

- o China has a billion people. India has a billion people too.
Both China and India have a billion people.
- 1 Laos is in Asia. Thailand is also in Asia.
.....
- 2 Penguins can't fly. Ostriches can't fly either.
.....
- 3 Maybe France won the 2006 World Cup. Perhaps Italy won it.
.....
- 4 The Egyptians built pyramids. The Aztecs built pyramids too.
.....
- 5 Alfred Hitchcock didn't win an Oscar. Federico Fellini didn't win an Oscar either.
.....
- 6 Perhaps Lake Titicaca is in Bolivia. Maybe it's in Peru.
.....

79c Complete the article. Use *both ... and*, *either ... or* or *neither ... nor*.

(0) Neither Bob (1) Janet had ever been to a gym before, so the experience was new for both of them. There were lots of activities to do. At six o'clock you could (2) do aerobics (3) karate and at seven thirty you could (4) go to a yoga class (5) try something called aquagym in the swimming pool. But (6) Janet (7) Bob wanted to do aquagym. Bob decided to try karate and Janet decided to do (8) karate (9) yoga. After their classes, Bob and Janet were (10) hungry (11) thirsty, so they went to the cafeteria for a cold drink and a snack.