

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

2 have / either

3 neither / like

4 she / go home / so / I