

2.6 so, too, neither/nor, either

We use expressions **so/too** and **neither/nor/either** in short statements meaning (me) too or (me) neither. We use these constructions in reaction to somebody's statements to let the other person know that we are in the same situation.

We use **so** and **too** in positive statements. The form of an auxiliary or modal verb in short statements must be the same as the form of the main verb and the subject in the sentence to which it refers.

The structure of the short statement is the following:

- **so + auxiliary/modal verb + subject (noun/pronoun):**
*Our football team has let us down recently. **So** has ours.
I should go jogging every day. **So** should I.*
- **subject (noun/pronoun) + auxiliary/modal verb + too:**
*Michael broke his personal record yesterday. You **did too**.*

We use **neither/nor** and **either** to say something is the same or agree with a negative statement.

The structure of the short statement is the following:

- **neither/nor + auxiliary/modal verb in a positive form + subject (noun/pronoun):**
*My coach isn't going to be pleased with my score.
Neither/Nor is mine.
Jerry will never give up running marathons.
Neither/Nor will I.*
- **subject (noun/pronoun) + auxiliary/modal verb in a negative form + either:**
*She didn't play for the school team last year. I **didn't either**.*

In the **Present Simple** the auxiliary verb is *do/does*:

*Rob takes part in tennis competitions twice a year.
So does Joan.*

In the **Past Simple** the auxiliary verb is *did*:

*Last week we qualified for the finals. **So did** we.*

Using **Really?** and **Oh**, we react to other person's statement to say something is different, or to disagree with a statement.

The structure of the short comment is the following:

Really?/Oh + subject (noun/pronoun) + auxiliary/modal verb in a form opposite to the one used in the statement to which we are reacting:

*I believe that some children should start training at a very early age. **Really?** I don't.*

Most of our fans couldn't get tickets to watch the match.

***Oh.** Ours could.*

1 Choose the correct option.

- 1 Alex is a great tennis player. *So / Too* is Stefanos.
- 2 My cricket bat isn't new. *So / Nor* is Tom's.
- 3 We watched the Olympic Games. *So we did / did we*.
- 4 He won't go to practice tomorrow. *Neither / So* will I.
- 5 Emma didn't go cycling. David didn't *either / neither*.
- 6 We've got our tickets for the match. *So do / have* we.

2 Complete the sentences with *so/too* or *neither/either* and the correct auxiliary.

- 1 To keep fit, Dan goes for a swim every Friday.
_____ Pam.
- 2 Martin has never played squash.
_____ they.
- 3 Sam is going to try out the new gym.
_____ I.
- 4 They shouldn't give up chess.
_____ we.
- 5 As a child, Olga wasn't very competitive.
Her sister _____.
- 6 Hopefully, Pete will talk his parents into doing Nordic walking
Tina _____.

3 Complete the conversations with the words in brackets. Add verb forms where necessary.

- 1 A: They have never let their coach down.
B: _____ (neither/we)
- 2 A: Their teammates are really ambitious.
B: _____ (ours/too)
- 3 A: Unfortunately, Pat lost a match yesterday.
B: _____ (I/too)
- 4 A: We aren't going to go in for that competition.
B: _____ (really/we)
- 5 A: My sister doesn't watch any sport on TV.
B: _____ (nor/mine)
- 6 A: My dad will never take up yoga.
B: _____ (really/mine)

4 UNIT REVIEW Choose the correct sentence, A, B, or C to complete the conversations.

- 1 X: Can you imagine? They have never lost a match.
Y: _____
A Neither have we. B We too.
C So have we.
- 2 X: I think they should be more decisive.
Y: _____
A Really? I shouldn't. B Really? I don't.
C Oh. So should I.
- 3 X: She is going to watch a rugby match tonight.
Y: _____
A Neither am I. B I am too.
C I'm not either.
- 4 X: You look sad. What's the matter?
Y: My friend _____
A can't help helping me. B can't afford to help me.
C doesn't mind helping me.
- 5 X: What did you do when you saw that accident?
Y: _____
A I called an ambulance.
B I was calling an ambulance.
C I had called an ambulance.
- 6 X: Are you going to enter this competition?
Y: Definitely. I love _____ new challenges.
A taking on B giving up
C burning off