

# both / both of      neither / neither of either / either of

## A

We use **both/neither/either** for *two* things.

You can use these words with a *noun* (**both books, neither book** etc.).

For example, you are going out to eat. There are two possible restaurants. You say:

- ☐ **Both restaurants** are good. (*not* the both restaurants)
- ☐ **Neither restaurant** is expensive.
- ☐ We can go to **either restaurant**. I don't mind. (= one or the other, it doesn't matter which)
- ☐ I haven't been to **either restaurant** before. (= not one or the other)

You can also use **both/neither/either** without a noun:

- ☐ 'Which do you prefer, basketball or tennis?' 'It's hard to say. I like **both**.'
- ☐ 'Is your friend British or American?' '**Neither**. She's Australian.'
- ☐ 'Do you want tea or coffee?' '**Either**. I don't mind.'

## B

**both of ... / neither of ... / either of ...**

We use **both of / neither of / either of + the/these/my/Tom's ...** etc. So we say 'both of **the** restaurants', 'both of **those** restaurants' etc. (*but not* both of restaurants):

- ☐ **Both of these** restaurants are good.
- ☐ **Neither of the** restaurants we went to was expensive.
- ☐ I haven't been to **either of those** restaurants.

You don't need **of** after **both**. So you can say:

- ☐ **Both of these** restaurants are good. *or* **Both these** restaurants are good.

We also use **both of / neither of / either of + us/you/them**:

- ☐ (*talking to two people*) Can **either of you** speak Russian?
- ☐ I asked two people how to get to the station, but **neither of them** knew.

We say 'both **of**' before **us/you/them** (you need to use **of**):

- ☐ **Both of us** were tired. (*not* Both us were ...)

After **neither of ...** a verb can be singular or plural:

- ☐ Neither of them **is** at home. *or* Neither of them **are** at home.

## C

You can say:

**both ... and ...**

- ☐ **Both Chris and** Paul were late.
- ☐ I was **both** tired **and** hungry when I arrived home.

**neither ... nor ...**

- ☐ **Neither** Chris **nor** Paul came to the party.
- ☐ There was an accident outside our house, but we **neither** saw **nor** heard anything.

**either ... or ...**

- ☐ I'm not sure where Maria's from. She's **either** Spanish **or** Italian.
- ☐ **Either** you apologise, **or** I'll never speak to you again.

## D

Compare **either/neither/both** (two things) and **any/none/all** (more than two):

- ☐ There are **two** good hotels here.  
You could stay at **either** of them.
- ☐ We tried **two** hotels.  
{ **Neither** of them had a room.  
  **Both** of them were full.

- ☐ There are **many** good hotels here.  
You could stay at **any** of them.
- ☐ We tried **a lot of** hotels.  
{ **None** of them had a room.  
  **All** of them were full.

**89.1 Complete the sentences with both/neither/either.**

- 1 'Do you want tea or coffee?' ' Either . I really don't mind.'
- 2 'What day is it today – the 18th or the 19th?' '.....' . It's the 20th.'
- 3 A: Where did you go on your trip – Korea or Japan?  
B: We went to ..... . A week in Korea and a week in Japan.
- 4 'Shall we sit in the corner or by the window?' '.....' . I don't mind.'
- 5 'Where's Lisa? Is she at work or at home?' '.....' . She's away on holiday.'
- 6 'Is it true that Kate speaks Spanish and Arabic?' 'Yes, she speaks ..... fluently.'

**89.2 Complete the sentences with both/neither/either. Use of where necessary.**

- 1 Both ..... my parents are from Egypt.
- 2 To get to the town centre, you can walk along the river or you can go along the road.  
You can go ..... way.
- 3 I went to Carl's house twice, but ..... times he wasn't at home.
- 4 ..... Tom's parents is English. His father is Polish and his mother is Italian.
- 5 I saw an accident this morning. One car drove into the back of another. Fortunately  
..... driver was injured, but ..... cars were badly damaged.
- 6 I have two sisters and a brother. My brother is working, but ..... my sisters are still at school.

**89.3 Complete the sentences with both/neither/either + of us / of them.**

- 1 I asked two people how to get to the station, but neither of them knew.
- 2 I was invited to two parties last week, but I couldn't go to .....
- 3 There were two windows in the room. It was very warm, so I opened .....
- 4 Sam and I often play tennis, but we're not very good. .... can play well.
- 5 I tried two bookshops for the book I wanted to buy, but ..... had it.

**89.4 Write sentences with both ... and ... / neither ... nor ... / either ... or ... .**

- 1 Chris was late. So was Pat. Both Chris and Pat were late.
- 2 He didn't say hello, and he didn't smile. He neither said hello nor smiled.
- 3 It was a boring movie. It was long too.  
The movie .....
- 4 Joe doesn't have a car. Sam doesn't have one either.  
.....
- 5 Emily speaks German and she speaks Russian too.  
.....
- 6 Ben doesn't watch TV and he doesn't read newspapers.  
Ben .....
- 7 Is that man's name Richard? Or is it Robert? It's one of the two.  
That man's name .....
- 8 I don't have time to go on holiday. And I don't have the money.  
I have .....
- 9 We can leave today or we can leave tomorrow – whichever you prefer.  
We .....

**89.5 Complete the sentences with neither/either/none/any.**

- 1 We tried a lot of hotels, but none ..... of them had a room.
- 2 Sam has two sisters, but I haven't met ..... of them.
- 3 Emily has four brothers, but I haven't met ..... of them.
- 4 There were a few shops in the street, but ..... of them was open.
- 5 Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey – have you been to ..... of these countries?
- 6 I could meet you next Monday or Thursday. Would ..... of those days suit you?
- 7 Mark and I couldn't get into the house because ..... of us had a key.