

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.

Exercises

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.