Unit 38

Grammar

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****.'*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 .....

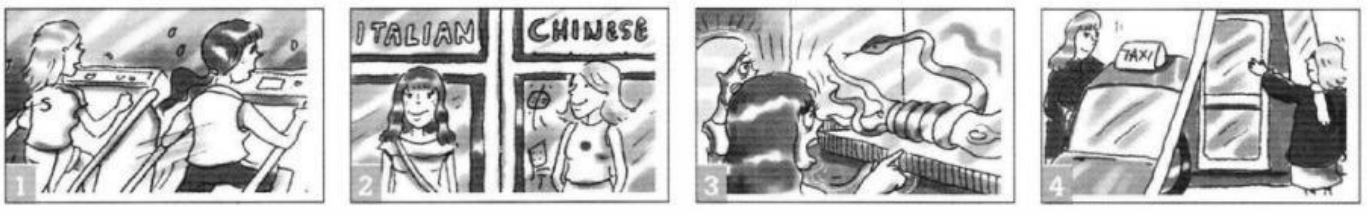
5 Pauline couldn't read until she was seven. She also couldn't write until she was seven.
Pauline .....

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! 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
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS