

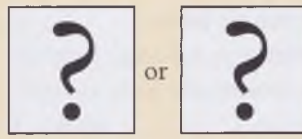
both either neither

A

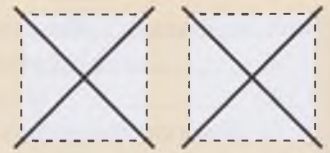
We use **both/either/neither** to talk about two things or people:



both



either



neither (*not + either*)

- Rebecca has two children. **Both** are married. (**both** = the two children)
- Would you like tea or coffee? You can have **either**. (**either** = tea or coffee)
- A: Do you want to go to the movies or the theater?
B: **Neither**. I want to stay home. (**neither** = not the movies or the theater)

Compare **either** and **neither**:

- “Would you like **tea** or **coffee**?”
 “**Either**. It doesn’t matter.” (= tea or coffee)
 “I **don’t** want **either**.” (*not* I don’t want neither)
 “**Neither**.” (= not tea or coffee)

B

Both/either/neither + *noun*

| | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| both + plural | both | windows/books/children, etc. |
| either neither } + singular | either | window/book/child, etc. |
| | neither | |

- Last year I went to Miami and Seattle. I liked **both cities** very much.
- First I worked in an office and later in a store. **Neither job** was very interesting.
- There are two ways to get to the airport. You can go **either way**.

C

Both of... / either of... / neither of...

| | | |
|----------------|------|---------------------------|
| both | (of) | the ... |
| either | of | these/those ... |
| neither | | my/your/Paul’s ... , etc. |

I like **both of** those pictures.



- **Neither of my** parents is Canadian.
- I **haven’t** read **either of these** books.

You can say **both of the/those/my ...** or **both the/those/my ...** (with or without **of**):

- I like **both of** those pictures. *or* I like **both** those pictures.
- **Both of** Paul’s sisters are married. *or* **Both** Paul’s sisters are married.
- but* **Neither of** Paul’s sisters is married. (*not* Neither Paul’s sisters)

D

Both of them / neither of us

| | | |
|----------------|----|------|
| both | of | them |
| either | | us |
| neither | | you |

- Paul has got two sisters. **Both of them** are married.
- Sue and I didn’t eat anything. **Neither of us** was hungry.
- Who are those two people? I **don’t** know **either of them**.

Exercises

3.1 Write both/either/neither. Use of where necessary.

- Last year I went to Miami and Seattle. I liked both cities very much.
- There were two pictures on the wall. I didn't like either of them.
- It was a good football game. _____ teams played well.
- It wasn't a good football game. _____ team played well.
- "Is your friend Canadian or American?" "_____. She's Australian."
- We went away for two days, but the weather was bad. It rained _____ days.
- A: I bought two newspapers. Which one do you want?
B: _____. It doesn't matter which one.
- I invited Donna and Mike to the party, but _____ them came.
- "Do you go to work by car or by bus?" "_____. I always walk."
- "Which jacket do you prefer, this one or that one?" "I don't like _____ them."
- "Do you work or are you a student?" "_____. I work, and I'm a student, too."
- Paula and I didn't know the time because _____ us had a watch.
- Helen has two sisters and a brother. _____ sisters are married.
- Helen has two sisters and a brother. I know her brother, but I haven't met _____ her sisters.

3.2 Complete the sentences for the pictures. Use Both . . . and Neither



- Both cups are empty.
- _____ are open.
- _____ wearing a hat.
- _____ beards.
- _____ to the airport.
- _____ right.

3.3 A man and a woman answered some questions. Their answers were the same. Write sentences with Both/Neither of them

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|--------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| | | | | | |
| 1. Are you married? | No | No | → | 1. <u>Neither of them is married.</u> | |
| 2. How old are you? | 21 | 21 | → | 2. <u>Both of them are 21.</u> | |
| 3. Are you a student? | Yes | Yes | → | 3. _____ students. | |
| 4. Do you have a car? | No | No | | 4. _____ a car. | |
| 5. Where do you live? | Boston | Boston | | 5. _____ | |
| 6. Do you like to cook? | Yes | Yes | | 6. _____ | |
| 7. Can you play the piano? | No | No | | 7. _____ | |
| 8. Do you read the newspaper? | Yes | Yes | | 8. _____ | |
| 9. Are you interested in sports? | No | No | | 9. _____ | |