

43 So/Neither do I and I think so

1 So and neither

Vicky: I'm hungry.
 Rachel: **So am I.** I haven't eaten anything all day.
 Daniel: **Neither have I.** I didn't have time for breakfast.

We use **so** after a positive statement and **neither** after a negative one.
I'm hungry. ~ **So am I.** (= And I'm hungry./I'm hungry, too.)
I haven't eaten. ~ **Neither have I.** (= And I haven't eaten./I haven't eaten either.)

The structure is **so/neither** + an auxiliary + the subject.
 The auxiliary is a form of **be** or **have** or a modal verb, e.g. **can**.

We're really busy at work. ~ **So are we.**
Tom has gone to the match. ~ **And so has Nick.**
David can't drive, and neither can Melanie.

The subject comes at the end. NOT *We're busy.* ~ ~~So we are.~~
 In the Present Simple and Past Simple we use a form of **do**.

I love old cowboy films. ~ **So do I.** *This phone doesn't work.* ~ **Neither does this one.**
United won, and so did Rangers.

We can use **nor** instead of **neither**.
Emma isn't here tonight. Neither/Nor is Matthew.

2 I think so, etc.

Vicky: It's 'Round the Corner' at half past seven, my favourite soap opera. Are we going to be back in time?
 Daniel: **I think so.** We haven't got far to go now.
 Rachel: We might miss the beginning.
 Vicky: Oh, **I hope not.** I want to know if Bernard really did steal the money.



Here **I think so** means 'I think we'll be back in time', and **I hope not** means 'I hope we don't miss the beginning'.

We can use **so** after **be afraid, believe, expect, guess, hope, suppose** and **think**.

Do you think you'll get the job? ~ Well, **I hope so.**
Are you going on holiday this year? ~ Yes, **I expect so.**
I don't know for sure if Henry is rich, but I should think so.

But we cannot use **so** after **know** or **be sure**.

There's been an accident. ~ Yes, **I know.** NOT ~~I know so.~~
Are you sure you're doing the right thing? ~ Yes, **I'm sure.** NOT ~~I'm sure so.~~

There are two negative structures.

NEGATIVE + **so**

Is it raining? ~ **I don't think so.**
Are you going to the concert? ~ **I don't expect so.**
 With **expect** and **think**, we normally use the negative and **so**.

POSITIVE + **not**

Is it raining? ~ **I hope not.**
Have we won a prize? ~ **I'm afraid not.**
 With **be afraid, guess** and **hope**, we use the positive and **not**.

We can use **believe** and **suppose** in either structure.

Will there be any seats left? ~ **I don't suppose so.** OR **I suppose not.**

Practice

A So and neither (1)

Andrew has just met Jessica at a party. They are finding out that they have a lot in common. Put in the structures with **so** and **neither**.

- Andrew: I haven't been to a party for ages.
 ▶ Jessica: **Neither have I.** I hate crowded rooms.
 ▶ Andrew: Yes, **so do I.** I'm not a party-goer, really.
 1 Jessica: No, I can't make conversation.
 2 Andrew: You know, I'm a quiet sort of person.
 3 Jessica: And I lead a pretty quiet life.
 4 Andrew: Well, I haven't got many friends.
 5 Jessica: And I would really like a good friend.
 6 Andrew: Oh,

B So and neither (1)

Look at the table and complete the sentences.

	Mark	Claire	Melanie	Emma
Music	✓	✗	✗	✓
Travel	✓	✓	✗	✗
Skiing	✗	✓	✓	✗
Cooking	✗	✗	✓	✓

- ▶ Claire can ski, and **so can Melanie.**
 ▶ Mark isn't keen on cooking, and **neither is Claire.**
 1 Melanie doesn't like travelling much, and
 2 Mark has got lots of CDs, and
 3 Emma can't ski, and
 4 Claire isn't a music lover, and
 5 Melanie cooks quite often, and
 6 Mark travels quite a lot, and

C I think so, etc. (2)

Complete these short conversations. Put in structures with **so** or **not** and use the words in brackets.

- ▶ Laura: Does the library open on Saturdays? (think)
 Trevor: Yes, **I think so.** But I'm not absolutely certain.
 ▶ Harriet: You can't go out for an evening meal wearing shorts. (guess)
 Mike: **I guess not.** I'd better put some trousers on.
 1 Sarah: Will there be a lot of people at the concert tonight? (expect)
 Mark: There aren't usually very many.
 2 Daniel: Are you going to apply for the job? (suppose)
 Vicky: It's the only one available.
 3 David: Do you think it's going to rain? (hope)
 Melanie: Well, I'm just about to go out.
 4 Nick: Will the match take place in this weather? (think)
 Tom: In fact, I'm sure it won't.
 5 Claire: Is my coat ready, please? (afraid)
 Assistant: We're having problems with the machine.