

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 talking about going out to eat this evening. There are two restaurants where you can go. You say:

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

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

When you use **both/neither/either** + **of**, you always need **the... / these/those... / my/your/his/Tom's...** (etc.). You cannot say 'both of restaurants'. You have to say 'both of the restaurants', 'both of those restaurants' etc.:

- **Both of these** restaurants are very good.
- **Neither of the** restaurants we went to was (*or were*) expensive.
- I haven't been to **either of those** restaurants. (= I haven't been to one or the other)

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

- **Both my parents** are from London. *or* **Both of my parents...**

You can use **both of / neither of / either of** + **us/you/them**:

- (*talking to two people*) Can **either of you** speak Spanish?
- I asked two people the way to the station but **neither of them** knew.

You must say 'both of' before **us/you/them** (*of* is necessary):

- **Both of us** were very tired. (*not* 'Both us were...')

After **neither of...** a singular or a plural verb is possible:

- **Neither of the children** *wants (or want)* to go to bed.

C You can also use **both/neither/either** alone:

- I couldn't decide which of the two shirts to buy. I liked **both**. (*or* I liked **both** of them.)
- 'Is your friend British or American?' '**Neither**. She's Australian.'
- 'Do you want tea or coffee?' '**Either**. I don't mind.'

D You can say:

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| both...and...: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Ann and Tom were late. • I was both tired and hungry when I arrived home. |
| neither...nor...: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neither Liz nor Robin came to the party. • She said she would contact me but she neither wrote nor phoned. |
| either...or...: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm not sure where he's from. He's either Spanish or Italian. • Either you apologise or I'll never speak to you again. |

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two good hotels in the town. You can stay at either of them. • We tried two hotels. Neither of them had any rooms. / Both of them were full. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are many good hotels in the town. You can stay at any of them. • We tried a lot of hotels. None of them had any rooms. / All of them were full. |
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EXERCISES

88.1 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 'There are two sandwiches here. Do you mind which I take?' 'No, take
- 4 A: 'Where did you go for your holidays - Scotland or Ireland?'
B: 'We went to
- 5 'When shall I phone you, morning or afternoon?' '..... I'll be in all day.'
'Where's Kate? Is she at work or at home?' '..... She's away on holiday.'
- 6 'Where's Kate? Is she at work or at home?' '..... She's away on holiday.'

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

- 1 Both (of)..... my parents are from London.
- 2 To get to the town centre, you can go along the footpath by the river or you can go along the road. You can go way.
- 3 I tried twice to phone George but times he was out.
- 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 cars were quite badly damaged. driver was injured but my sisters are still at school.
- 6 I've got two sisters and a brother. My brother is working but

88.3 Complete the sentences with both/neither/either of us/them.

- 1 I asked two people the way to the station but neither of them could help me.
- 2 I was invited to two parties last week but I didn't go to
- 3 There were two windows in the room. It was very warm, so I opened can play very well. had it.
- 4 Sarah and I play tennis together regularly but
- 5 I tried two bookshops for the book I wanted but

88.4 Write sentences with both...and... / neither...nor... / either...or...

- 1 Tom was late. So was Ann. Both Tom and Ann were late.
- 2 She didn't write and she didn't phone. She neither wrote nor phoned.
- 3 Jim is on holiday and so is Carol. Both
- 4 George doesn't smoke and he doesn't drink.
- 5 Jim hasn't got a car. Carol hasn't got a car either.
- 6 It was a very boring film. It was very long too. The film
- 7 Is that man's name Richard? Or is it Robert? It's one of the two.
- 8 That man's name
- 9 I haven't got time to go on holiday. And I haven't got the money.
- 10 I've got
- 11 We can leave today or we can leave tomorrow - whichever you prefer.
- 12 We

88.5 Complete the sentences with neither/either/none/any.

- 1 We tried a lot of hotels but none of them had any rooms.
- 2 I took two books with me on holiday but I didn't read of them.
- 3 I took five books with me on holiday but I didn't read of them.
- 4 There are a few shops at the end of the street but of them sell newspapers.
- 5 You can phone me at time during the evening. I'm always at home.
- 6 I can meet you on the 6th or 7th. Would of those days be convenient for you?
- 7 John and I couldn't get into the house because of us had a key.
- 8 There were a few letters this morning but of them were for me.