

Neither / Neither of, Either / Either of, and Both / Both of

We use neither, either, both, for two things. You can use these words with a noun (a thing).

I couldn't decide which shirt to buy. I liked them **both**.
Is your friend English or Australian? **Neither**, she's French.
Do you want tea or coffee? **Either**, I don't mind.

1. **Neither + singular noun** = none of two or more. Used before a singular noun to mean "not one and not the other" (of two).

Can you come on Monday or Tuesday? I'm sorry, **neither** day works for me.

2. **Neither of + plural noun** = used before a determiner (for example the, my, these) and before a pronoun.

Neither of my brothers can sing.
Neither of us saw the accident happen.

After neither of + noun / pronoun we use a singular verb in a formal style and a plural form when we are talking informally:

Neither of my sisters is married. (= formal)
Neither of my sisters are married. (=informal)

We can use neither without a noun or pronoun, if the meaning is clear.

Which one do you want? **Neither**.

3. **Neither...nor** = used to join two negative ideas. It is the opposite of both...and. It is usually formal.

I **neither** smoke nor drink.
The film was **neither** well made **nor** well acted.

Sometimes more than two ideas are connected by neither...nor but you can't begin a complete clause with this structure.

The boss **neither** smiled, **nor** looked at me.

When singular subjects are connected by neither...nor, the verb is normally singular, but it can be plural in a less formal style.

Neither Fabi **nor** Fiona was at home. (= formal)
Neither Fabi **nor** Fiona were at home. (= less formal).

We can also use neither and nor as adverbs to mean 'also not'. Neither and nor come at the beginning of a clause and are followed by inverted word order:

I can't swim. Neither / Nor can I.

Fabi didn't turn up and neither / nor did Fiona.

4. Not either = we can also use not...either with the same meaning and normal word order:

I can't swim. I can't either.

Fabi didn't turn up and Fiona didn't either.

I can't swim. Me neither. (= informal)

I didn't swim at the beach. Neither did Fiona. OR, Kate didn't either.