



Either and Neither

We use 'either + a singular noun' to mean 'this one or that one' when we are talking about two things of the same kind (like two drinks or two t-shirts).

- Either drink is fine. I like both kinds.
- We could go to either restaurant.
- Julie might buy either t-shirt.

We use 'neither + a singular noun' to mean 'not this one and also not that one' when we are talking about two things of the same kind.

- Neither drink is fine. John hates both of them.
- Neither restaurant is good. Let's go somewhere else.

We use 'either of + plural noun' and 'neither of + plural noun' before a pronoun or a word like 'this' or 'the' or 'my'.

- Either of my dresses is good. (= this dress is good and also that dress is good.)
- Either of us can get the key.
- Neither of my dresses will do. (both of my dresses are not good.)
- Neither of us will be on time.

We can use 'either' and 'neither' on their own when we have already said the noun.

- Which drink would you like? Either is fine.
- Which cake do you want? Neither! I'm going to have an apple.



If we want to talk about two different things, we can use 'either + noun + or + noun'. We don't need to use 'of' in this case.

- Either coffee or tea is fine.
- We could use either blue paint or red paint.
- She will buy either some apples or some oranges.

We can also use 'neither + noun + nor + noun'. This tells us about two negative ideas, but it's quite formal. It's more normal just to use 'not + or'.

- I don't like coffee or tea.
- I like neither coffee nor tea.

We can also use 'neither' at the beginning of a sentence or clause. It means 'also not'. We need to use inverted word order afterwards.

- I'm not at home. Neither is John.

This is often used to answer someone.

- A: I don't like coffee. B: Neither do I.

In an informal style we can use 'me neither'.

- A: I don't like coffee. B: Me neither.

We use 'not ... either' to mean the same thing, but we use normal word order.

- A: I don't like coffee. B: I don't either.