

# NEITHER OU EITHER – GRAMMAR REFERENCE



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**NEITHER OU EITHER? QUAL A DIFERENÇA?**

Antes de entrar nas definições de *either* e *neither* propriamente ditas, é preciso retomar um conceito muito importante para entender como funcionam os dois termos: a [double negative](#).

Observe a seguinte frase em português:

**Eu não fiz nada.**

A oração usada como exemplo possui duas palavras com sentido negativo: **não** e **nada**. Na língua portuguesa, ao ser escrita dessa maneira, a frase mantém o sentido de negação e deixa claro que o interlocutor não executou atividade alguma.

No inglês é diferente, e nós não costumamos empregar dois elementos negativos na mesma frase - exceto em casos em que você procura enfatizar ou dar outro sentido à frase. Isso ocorre porque a língua inglesa segue uma lógica matemática de que “menos com menos é mais”, assim as negações se anulam.

Observe a tradução literal para o inglês da frase usada como exemplo anteriormente:

*I didn't do nothing.*

A sentença mantém duas palavras negativas: *didn't* e *nothing*. Nesse caso elas irão se anular, e ainda vai soar bem estranho aos ouvidos de um nativo. Se você deseja manter o sentido de que o interlocutor não fez nada, utilize apenas uma negação, como:

*I didn't do anything.* ou *I did nothing.*

Ambas as frases são traduzidas como **eu não fiz nada**, porém essa regra gramatical faz toda diferença no seu uso diário do inglês. E agora ela vai te ajudar a entender melhor os usos de *either* e de *neither*!

**Either**

De antemão, saiba que *either* é uma expressão positiva. Veja seus principais usos:

Sentido de “um ou outro”

Você pode utilizar a expressão *either... or* ao oferecer uma escolha entre duas opções. Não há uma tradução exata de *either* para o português, mas saiba que, na frase, o termo assume o sentido de **um ou outro**, conforme:

*She can buy either the Galaxy or the iPhone.* - **Ela pode comprar ou o galaxy ou o iPhone.**

*Just pick either red or blue.* - **Apenas selecione ou vermelho ou azul.**

Sentido de “qualquer um”

A junção de *either* com *of* é traduzida como **qualquer um de** ou até mesmo **algum de**. Você ainda pode adicionar à frase os pronomes *you*, *us* and *them*. Veja:

*Can either of you go and open the door?* - **Algum de vocês pode ir abrir a porta?**

*The company can choose either of us to hire.* - **A empresa pode escolher qualquer um de nós para contratar.**

A expressão *either of* é usada em contextos em que *you*, *us* e *them* representam grupos de duas pessoas. Se estiver falando de uma amostragem maior, você pode empregar o termo *any*, como:

*Can any of you five go and open the door?* - **Algum de vocês cinco pode ir abrir a porta?**

É possível utilizar *either* para responder a alguma pergunta em que, para o interlocutor, tanto faz a escolha das opções. Assim, o termo possui um sentido de **qualquer um**, de **tanto faz**. Veja:

*Do you want bread or cake?* - **Você quer pão ou bolo?**

*Either, I'm hungry.* - **Qualquer um, estou com fome.**

*Which T-shirt do you want to buy: the red or the blue one?* - **Qual camiseta você quer comprar: a vermelha ou a azul?**

*Either, I just need to buy one.* - **Tanto faz, eu só preciso comprar uma.**

Sentido de “também”

Há situações em que você pode concordar com algo dito anteriormente, empregando um sentido de **eu também**. Se desejar construir uma frase negativa, você pode utilizar uma negativa com *either*, veja:

*I don't wanna go to the party.* - **Eu não quero ir à festa.**

*I don't want either.* - **Eu também não quero.**

*I won't travel this weekend.* - **Eu não vou viajar neste fim de semana.**

*I won't either.* - **Eu também não irei.**

## **Neither**

A palavra *neither* funciona com um sentido negativo. Veja os principais usos:

Sentido de “nem isso nem aquilo”

Aqui também não há uma tradução direta para o português, e a expressão *neither...nor* traz um significado próximo de **nem isso nem aquilo** entre duas opções. Veja:

*Neither Amsterdam nor Berlin seem to be good options to live for me.* - **Nem Amsterdã nem Berlim parecem boas opções de morar para mim.**

*I neither can listen nor read those messages.* - **Eu não posso ouvir nem ler aquelas mensagens.**

Sentido de “nenhum”

A expressão *neither of* traz um significado de **nenhum de**, e pode vir acompanhada dos pronomes *you*, *us* e *them*. Veja:

*Neither of us was available to go there.* - **Nenhum de nós estava disponível para ir lá.**

*I want neither of those flavours.* - **Eu não quero nenhum daqueles sabores.**

*I think that neither of us is ready to go.* - **Eu acho que nenhum de nós está pronto para ir.**

Se você precisar dar uma resposta sobre duas opções que não te agradam, utilize também a expressão *neither*, como:

*Which flavour do you want: chocolate or strawberry?* - **Que sabor você quer: chocolate ou morango?**

*Neither, I'm fine.* - **Nenhum, estou bem.**

*Which smartphone do you want to buy: Galaxy or iPhone?* - **Qual smartphone você quer comprar: Galaxy ou iPhone?**

*Neither, mine is good for now.* - **Nenhum, o meu está bom por enquanto.**

Sentido de “eu também não”

A expressão *me neither* pode ser utilizada para dizer **eu também não** em casos informais. Veja:

*I won't go there, that place is scary.* - **Eu não vou lá, aquele lugar é assustador.**

*Me neither.* - **Eu também não.**

*I don't like to watch these movies.* - **Eu não gosto de assistir a esses filmes.**

*Me neither.* - **Eu também não.**

## **Grammar Reference - Meaning and use**

We use **comparative adjectives and adverbs** to compare one person or thing with another person or thing.

*Today is **hotter than** yesterday.*

*I think documentaries are **more interesting than** the news.*

*Can you drive **faster?** – I'm late.*

*My brother speaks **more fluently than** me.*

We can repeat **comparatives** with **and** to say how something changes.

*Train journeys in the UK are becoming **more and more expensive.***

*The sky grew **darker and darker** and we knew the storm would break soon.*

We can use two different comparatives with **the** to say how something changes as something else changes.

***The faster** they went, **the louder** they screamed.*

***The taller** she grew, **the thinner** she became.*

We use **superlative adjectives and adverbs** to compare one person or thing with several other people or things of the same kind.

*September is **the busiest** month for our business..*

*Angelina Jolie was **the highest** paid actress last year.*

*Which student has worked **the hardest** this year?*

We often use superlatives with the **present perfect** to talk about a particular life experience.

*That was **the funniest** film **I've seen** this year.*

*He swam **the fastest** he **has** ever **swum** to win gold.*

Form

We make **comparatives** in two ways: by adding **-er** or by putting **more** in front of the adjective or adverb.

*This hotel is **cheaper than** the one on the beach.*

*Life in the country is **more peaceful** than in the city.*

*Ali spoke **more accurately** than Khalid in the exam.*

We usually use **than** with the comparative, but not always.

*He's **better than** me at tennis.*

*Can you talk **more quietly**, please - I'm trying to work.*

We make **superlatives** by adding **-est** or by putting **most** in front of the adjective or adverb.

*It's **the cheapest** restaurant in town.*

*He spoke **the most confidently** in the final interviews.*

We usually use **the** before the superlative, but we sometimes use a possessive adjective.

*August is **the quietest month** in Paris.*

*December is **our busiest** time of year.*

For adjectives and adverbs with **one syllable**, add **-er** in the comparative form, and

**-est** in the superlative form. If the adjective or adverb already ends in **-e**, then just add

**-r** (comparative) or **-st** (superlative).

*Adjective/adverb: great   nice   fast*

*Comparative: greater   nicer   faster*

*Superlative: greatest   nicest   fastest*

If an adjective **ends in a vowel + consonant**, double the last letter before adding

**-er** or **-est** (unless it ends in **-w**).

*Adjective: big   hot   new*

*Comparative: bigger   hotter   newer*

*Superlative: biggest   hottest   newest*



If an adjective or adverb has **three or more syllables**, use **more** in the comparative, and **most** in the superlative.

*Adjective/adverb: expensive    fluently*

*Comparative: **more** expensive    **more** fluently*

*Superlative: **most** expensive    **most** fluently*

To form the comparative and superlative of some **two-syllables** adjectives, you can either add **-er/-est** or use **more/most**.

*Adjective: quiet    common    pleasant*

*Comparative:*

*quieter / **more** quiet    commoner / **more** common    pleasanter / **more** pleasant*

*Superlative:*

*quietest / **most** quiet    commonest / **most** common    pleasantest / **most** pleasant*

To form the comparative and superlative of **two-syllable** adjectives or adverbs that **end in -y**, change the 'y' to 'i' before adding **-er/-est**.

*Adjective/adverb: busy    early*

*Comparative: busier    earlier*

*Superlative: busiest    earliest*

Remember: irregular comparatives and superlatives

Some adjectives and adverbs have irregular comparative and superlative forms.

*His cold has got **worse** since he went back to work.*

*It's **the best** film I've seen in a long time.*

*Adjective: good    bad    far    little*

*Comparative: better    worse    further    less*

*Superlative: best    worst    furthest    least*

*Adverb: well    badly*

*Comparative: better    worse*

*Superlative: best    worst*

### **Take note: much/a lot**

We use **much** or **a lot** before an adjective or adverb to emphasise the degree of comparison.

*Shirley is **much more popular than** Janet.*

*This winter is **a lot worse** than last year.*

*I work **much more effectively** when I have a good night's sleep.*

Take note: (not) as ... as

To say that two things or people are similar in some way, use **as + adjective/adverb + as**.

*Mario is **as clever as** his brother.*

*Juliana shouted **as loudly as** the others but the teacher didn't choose her.*

Idioms with (not) as ... as

There are many set idioms in English which use **as + adjective + as** to make comparisons. These are often used in narrative texts to make writing more interesting and colourful.

*He was **as quiet as a mouse**.*

*The material was **as thin as ice**.*

*Her hands were **as warm as toast**.*

*He ran **as fast as the wind** to escape.*

*When Anna heard the news, she turned as **white as a sheet**.*

*He picked her up and she was **as light as a feather**.*

We can use **not as/so + adjective + as** to say that two things or people are not equal in some way.

*Ishbel is **not as talented as** her sister.*

*The final **wasn't so exciting as** the semi-final.*

## Meaning and use of used to and be/get used to

We use **used to + the infinitive** to talk about an action that happened regularly in the past but doesn't happen now. **Used to** is different to the past simple because it emphasises that the action was repeated many times.

***I used to drive** to work every day but now I cycle. It's better for the environment.*

We also use **used to + the infinitive** for past situations. It emphasises that the situations are no longer true.

*There **used to be** lots of old forests here, but sadly they've all been cut down.*

*I never **used to get** any exercise when I drove to work, so cycling's great.*

It's easy to confuse **used to + the infinitive** with **be/get used to** but the meanings are very different.

You use **be used to** to say that something isn't new, unusual or difficult for you. You have experienced it many times. You use **get used to** to say that you are gradually finding something less unusual or difficult. Both **be used to** and **get used to** can be followed by a noun/pronoun or the **-ing** form of the verb. They are never followed by the infinitive.

*Cycling was hard work at first, but **I'm used to it** now and I really enjoy it.*

***I'm used to getting up** a bit earlier so that I get to work on time.*

We can use **be/get used to** with present, past and future tenses.

*'Why did you find it so hard at first?'*

*'Well, because I **wasn't used to** cycling then.'*

*'How long did it take you to **get used to cycling**?'*

*'Oh, I **got used to it** after a couple of weeks. You should try it too. You'll **get used to it** in no time.'*

Form of used to + infinitive

## Positive

**Subject + used to + infinitive.**

***I used to be stuck** in traffic jams day after day.*

**NOT:** *I am used to be stuck in traffic jams day after day.*

## Negative

**Subject + didn't use to + infinitive.** We can also use **never used to + infinitive**. In more formal or written English, **used not to + infinitive** is sometimes used.

***I didn't use to get** any exercise. / **I never used to get** any exercise. / **I used not to get** any exercise.*

## Questions and short answers

**Did + subject + use to + infinitive.**

***'Did it use to take** you a long time to get to work?'*

***'Yes, it did.'** / **'Yes, it used to.'***

Form of be/get used to

## Positive

**Subject + be/get used to + noun/pronoun or + -ing.**

***I'm used to getting** wet on the way to work when it rains!*

***My legs have got used to the exercise** at last.*

## Negative

**Subject + not be/not get used to + noun/pronoun or + -ing.**

*My colleagues were amused because **they weren't used to seeing** me arrive on a bike.*

*If you don't try, **you won't get used to new ways** of doing things.*

## Questions and short answers

**Be + subject + used to + noun/pronoun or + -ing?**

And

**Auxiliary verb + subject + get used to + noun/pronoun or + -ing?**

*'Are your colleagues **used to you cycling** to work now?'*

*'Yes, **they are.**'*

*'**Did they get used to it** quickly?' 'Yes, **they did.**'*

Take note: used to

**Used to** is about the past so there is no present or future form. For the present we say

***I usually cycle** to work.*

**NOT:** *I use to cycle to work.*

Take note: didn't use to and did you use to

In the negative **didn't use to** and the question **did you use to**, notice that there is no **d** on **use**. This is correct English, although people sometimes put a **d** on the end.

## Pronunciation

**Used** is pronounced in the same way in **used to** and **be/get used to**. It has a soft /s/ sound and we don't pronounce the letter **d** at the end of **used**. We use the weak form of **to** /tə/ except in the short answer **Yes, I used to**, where it is pronounced as /tu:/.

## Adjectives and adverbs 02

Adjectives and adverbs are words that we use to describe or modify other words.

Adjectives are used to tell us about nouns or pronouns. They give us information about what someone or something is like.

- *Can you pass me the **yellow** pen please?*
- *Are you **happy**?*

Adverbs tell us about verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. They give us information about how someone does something or the way that something happens.

- *He walked **slowly** to his car.* (This tells us about the verb 'to walk'. It tells us how he walked.)
- *It was a **very** sunny day.* (This refers to the adjective 'sunny'. It tells us how sunny it was.)
- *He finished the exam **really quickly**.* (This tells us about the adverb 'quickly'. It tells us how quickly he finished.)

## Form - Adjectives

Most common adjectives have no particular form. There is nothing about their structure that shows they are an adjective.

**happy, sad, light, green, quick, busy, large**

Some adjectives are made by adding a suffix to a noun or verb.

- Fun – **funny**
- Week - **weekly**
- Child – **childlike**
- Fool – **foolish**
- Care – **careful**
- Accept – **acceptable**

### **Form – Adverbs**

Like adjectives there is no regular structure to adverbs.

**Soon, well, never, quite, often, already, just**

Many adverbs can be made by adding the suffix –ly to an adjective.

- Sad – **sadly**
- Serious – **seriously**
- Quiet – **quietly**
- Total – **totally**
- Careful - **carefully**
- Sleepy - **sleepily**
- Slow - **slowly**

### **Take Note: -ly**

Not all words that end in –ly are adverbs. There are many other word types that end in –ly.

- That was a **silly** thing to do. (Adjective)
- He was a **bully** at school. (Noun)
- You have to **apply** for the job. (Verb)



## Take note: 'irregular' forms

Some adjectives have adverbial forms that are irregular or even identical. There may not be –ly forms of these words and if there are, they have unconnected meanings.

### Good / well

- She is a **good** player. (Adjective)
- He played **well** tonight. (Adverb)

There were a **goodly** number of people there. (Adjective, old-fashioned, means large or high in terms of number of people and is not a positive comment about someone's ability or skill.)

### Late / Late

- Sorry I was **late**. (Adjective)
- He arrived **late**. (Adverb)

**Lately** you've been doing really well. (Adverb – **lately** means **recently** and does not refer to punctuality.)

### Fast / Fast

- I like **fast** cars. (Adjectives)
- She likes driving **fast**. (Adverb)

### Hard / hard

- It was a **hard** exam. (Adjective)
- He works and plays **hard**. (Adverb)

He **hardly** goes to school. (Adverb – here it means 'not very often' and is not related to difficulty or intensity.)

## Multi-word verbs - Meaning and use

A multi-word verb is a verb plus a word such as **in**, **on**, **out**, **up**, **away**, **off** and **down**. We often think of these words as prepositions, but here they behave like adverbs. The adverb sometimes extends the meaning of the verb on its own.

- *It's so annoying. Jason **keeps** phoning me all the time.*
- *It's so annoying. Jason **keeps on** phoning me all the time.*

Here, the phrasal verb **keeps on** means **continues**. It has the same meaning as **keeps** but is slightly stronger. Other phrasal verbs that extend the meaning of the main verb are **hurry up** and **sit down**.

Many verbs can go with different adverbs and the adverbs can completely change the meaning of the verb.

- *'When did you **break up**?'*
- *'Oh, I **broke off** our engagement ages ago. He **broke down** when I told him.'*

In this conversation, **break up** means **separate**, **broke off** means **ended** and **broke down** means **became very upset**. The meanings are different from the verb **break**.

Some phrasal verbs are intransitive (they have no object) for example: **keep on** and **hurry up**. Other phrasal verbs are transitive: they can be followed by a direct object, but not an object pronoun.

- *I **broke off** our engagement ages ago*
- ***NOT**: I broke off it.*

However, you can often put an object pronoun in the middle of a phrasal verb, between the verb and the adverb.

- *'Guess what! Rob **asked me out** yesterday!'*

Some verbs have three parts to them, an adverb and a preposition.

- *'Ah! I've seen you talking to Rob a lot recently. You seem to **get on with** him really well.'*

Form

**No object**

**My car broke down.**

**No object**

*My car **broke down**.*

**Noun object**

*Mark **broke out of** prison.*

**Object pronoun after the verb**

*Last week Ismail **broke up with** her.*

**Object pronoun in the middle**

*They were engaged, but they **broke it off**.*

Take note: phrasal verbs with direct objects

With phrasal verbs, (but not prepositional verbs), the noun object can usually go before or after the adverb.

- *I **broke off** our engagement. / I **broke** our engagement **off**.*

Pronunciation

For most phrasal verbs, the main stress is on the adverb.

- *When did you break **up**?*
- *'Oh, I broke **off** our engagement ages ago. He broke **down** when I told him.'*

This is the same for three-part verbs.

- *I'm so **looking forward to** it!*

But for prepositional verbs, the stress is often on the main verb, not on the preposition.

- *I really can't **deal** with it.*

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