

both¹

S1 W1

/bəʊ θ \$ boʊ θ /

determiner, predeterminer, pronoun

1 BOTH used to talk about two people, things etc together, and emphasize that each is included → **either**:

Both Helen's parents are doctors.

Hold it in both hands.

You can both swim, can't you?

They both started speaking together.

Oxford is not far from Stratford, so you can easily visit both in a day.

both of

Both of my grandfathers are farmers.

2 somebody can't have it both ways

used to say that someone cannot have the advantages that come from two separate situations because they cannot exist together:

It's either me or her. You can't have it both ways.

Grammar

Use **both (of)** before 'the', 'my', 'these' etc, or use **both** directly before a plural noun:

Both my parents are dead (NOT My both parents are dead).

Both of her parents went to college.

Both parents seem to be working very hard.

When **both** follows a pronoun or noun referring to two people or things, it should come after the first auxiliary if there is one:

We have both worked in Scotland for some time.

It comes after a simple tense of 'be':

a subject in which you are both interested

⚠ **Both** is not usually used in a negative clause. Use a clause with **neither** instead:

Neither of these methods is perfect (NOT Both of these methods is not perfect).

both²

conjunction

BOTH **both... and...**

used to emphasize that something is true not just of one person, thing, or situation but also of another:

He's lived in both Britain and America.

She can both speak and write Japanese.

Both he and his wife enjoy tennis.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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