



“Either/Or” and “Neither/Nor”

Grammar > Intermediate 6



Exercise 1 – Learning

Either A or B

Use '**Either A or B**' to say that there are exactly two options or outcomes: **A** or **B**.

'**Either**' emphasizes the fact that there are **exactly** two options.

- We can drink **either** beer **or** wine.

Neither A nor B

'**Neither A nor B**' is the negative form of '**Either A or B**'.

- I can speak **neither** Chinese **nor** Spanish.
- I can **neither** speak Chinese **nor** Spanish.



When you use either '**either**' or '**neither**', **A** and **B** must be of the same grammatical type:

- **nouns/noun phrases:** "We can drink either **beer** or **wine**."
- **verbs/verb phrases:** "Either **come with me** or **go home**!"
- **prepositional phrases:** "Come either **with your parents** or **by yourself**!"
- **clauses:** "Either **you study** or **you fail the test**."

Sometimes, however, you will see sentences whose options/outcomes do not seem to be the same grammatical type:

*We can **either** drink beer **or** wine.*

'**Drink beer**' and '**wine**' may seem like different grammatical types: **a verbal phrase and a noun**.

However, '**wine**' is actually short for '**drink wine**'. People often leave out the second instance of the verb:

*We can **either** drink beer **or** (drink) wine.*



Verb Agreement

If both **A** and **B** are singular, the verb must also be singular.

*Neither he nor she **knows** how to solve the problem.*

If either **A** or **B** is plural, the verb must also be plural.

*Neither the managers nor the employees **know** what to do.*



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. You can take _____. Both will take you to London.

- a) either this road or that road
- b) neither this road nor that road

2. _____ know how to cook. We should learn!

- a) Either you or I
- b) Neither you nor I

3. _____ like vegetables. We like meat.

- a) Either you or I
- b) Neither you nor I

4. I will _____ to let you know the results of the competition.

- a) either call you or text you
- b) neither call you nor text you



5. We can meet _____. It's your choice.

- a) either this week or next week
- b) neither this week nor next week

6. _____ were in the hospital when I went this morning. I don't know why.

- a) Neither the doctors nor the nurses
- b) Either the doctors or the nurses

7. My grandfather can _____. He didn't go to school.

- a) either read or write
- b) neither read nor write

8. In tennis you can _____.

- a) either win or lose
- b) neither win nor lose



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: today, tomorrow. → I can do either today or tomorrow./I can do neither today nor tomorrow.

Content:

1. lunch, dinner.
2. cafe, bar.
3. restaurant, picnic.
4. go for a walk, have a picnic.
5. Mexican food, Spanish food.
6. go clubbing, just get drinks.