

Unit 83 Both / both of, neither / neither of,
either / either of

a We use **both**, **neither** and **either** when we are talking about two things. You can use these words with a noun:

- **Both restaurants** are very good. (*not* 'the both restaurants')
- **Neither restaurant** is expensive.
- We can go to **either restaurant**. I don't mind. (**either** = one or the other, it doesn't matter which one)
- I didn't like **either restaurant**. (not the one or the other)

b You can also use **both/neither/either** with **of ...**. When you use these words with **of**, you always need **the/these/those/my/your/his** etc. You cannot say 'both of restaurants'. You have to say 'both of **the** restaurants', 'both of **these** restaurants' etc.:

- **Both of these** restaurants are very good.
- With **both** you can leave out **of**. So you can say:

both my parents or **both of my parents**

c After **both of / neither of / either of** you can also use **us/you/them**:

- Can **either of you** speak Spanish?
- I wanted Tom and Ann to come but **neither of them** wanted to.

You must say 'both of' before **us/you/them**:

- **Both of us** were very tired. (*not* 'Both us ...')

d After **neither of ...** you can use a singular or a plural verb:

- **Neither of the children** **wants** (*or want*) to go to bed.
- **Neither of us** **is** (*or are*) married.

e You can say **both ... and ...**, **neither ... nor ...** and **either ... or ...**. Study these examples:

- **Both Tom and Ann** were late.
- They were **both** tired **and** hungry.
- **Neither Tom nor Ann** came to the party.
- He said he would contact me but he **neither** wrote **nor** phoned.
- I'm not sure where he is from. He's **either** Spanish **or** Italian.
- **Either** you apologise **or** I'll never speak to you again.

f You can also use **both/neither/either** alone:

- 'Is he British or American?' '**Neither**. He's Australian'.
- 'Do you want tea or coffee?' '**Either**. I don't mind.'
- I couldn't decide which one to choose. I liked **both**.

For **I don't either** and **neither do I** see **Unit 51c**.

You must say 'both of' before **us/you/them**:

