

Unit 58: BOTH / EITHER / NEITHER

We can use these words in noun phrases. We use them when we are talking about exactly two (not one and not more than two). **Both** is plural (**Both girls are married**); **either** and **neither** are singular (**Neither of them has children**).

1 Meaning

■ and ■

There were cars parked on **both** sides of the road.

I have two sons. **Both** of them are engineers.

■ or ■

There was no space to park on **either** side of the road.

I've got two cars, but I don't really like **either** of them.

not ■ and not ■

Neither side of the street was lit. It was very dark.

Neither of my two sons is married yet.

2 With and, or and nor

To show clearly that two things are the same:

Both Argentina **and** West Germany have won the World Cup twice.

(Argentina has won the World Cup twice and West Germany has won it twice.)

Either Argentina **or** Brazil will win the next World Cup.

(Argentina might win or Brazil might win; I don't think another team will win.)

Neither Scotland **nor** Wales has ever won the World Cup.

(Scotland has never won it and Wales has never won it.)

NOTICE: In speaking only, we often use a plural verb with **neither**.

Neither of my sons **are** married yet.

Neither Scotland nor Wales **have** ever won it.