In the English language there are many words that help us connect ideas. These words are called conjunctions. In this handout we will study:

NEITHER...NOR  It is used to deny two possibilities. ‘Neither’ must be preceded by a positive statement as we never use two negative forms in the same sentence.

* e.g.: Wednesday *is neither* the first *nor* the last day of the week.

EITHER...OR  It is used to express a possibility only between two options.

* e.g.: I am going to see you *either* on Monday *or* Tuesday. (one day)

BOTH...AND  It is used to talk about two people, things, places or actions within the same context.

* e.g.: *Both* Peter *and* Jennifer are from Colorado state.

DIALOG

Son :  Mom, can we invite *both* Peter *and* John to have lunch today?
Mother :  I'm sorry dear, I'm afraid we can only afford lunch for *either* one *or* the other.
Son :  But I'd like to have both of them here with us.
Mother :  Well then, *neither* Peter *nor* John will be able to come.

EXERCISE 1. Connect these sentences using the conjunction in parenthesis.

1. Michael got his Christmas presents. Sarah got hers too. (both...and)

2. I can't find my towel. I can't find my sunglasses. (neither ...nor)

3. We can rent an apartment. We can stay in a motel. (either...or)

4. Jim never reads newspapers. He doesn't read magazines. (neither...nor)

5. My sandwich has cheese. My sandwich has ham. (both...and)

6. We can pay cash. We can pay with a credit card. (either...or)

7. Sophie's father isn't alive. Sophie's mother isn't alive. (neither...nor)

8. John wasn't home. Mary wasn't home. (neither...nor)
EXERCISE 2. Complete the following sentences, using neither ... nor or either ... or.

1. I’m too opinionated. People are_______ for me ________ against me.
2. No, it’s 8:25. _________ your watch is fast ________ mine is slow.
3. The accused is _________ guilty _________ not guilty.
4. Nobody is _________ completely bad _________ perfectly good.
5. I ____ see ______ hear from Harry anymore.
6. My cousin Fred is an only child. He has _______ brothers ______ sisters.
7. I want to learn another language. I’ll study _______ German _______ French.
8. I’m cooking. I’m sure _______ James _______ Michael will come for lunch.

EXERCISE 3. Write sentences about cities, using neither and both. Use the information given in parenthesis.

1. Valencia, Hiroshima (capital cities)

2. Hong Kong, Singapore (overpopulated)

3. San Francisco, Buenos Aires (Europe)

4. Tokyo, Athens (coffee producers)

5. Paris, Lyon (France)

6. Santiago, Mexico City (highly polluted)

7. Cambodia, Vietnam (developed countries)

8. The Sahara Desert, the Atacama Desert (uninhabited)
KEY CHECK

EXERCISE 1.
1. Both Michael and Sarah got their Christmas presents.
2. I can find neither my towel nor my sunglasses.
3. We can either rent an apartment or stay in a motel.
4. Jim reads neither newspapers nor magazines.
5. My sandwich has both cheese and ham.
6. We can pay either cash or with a credit card.
7. Neither Sophie’s father nor her mother are alive.
8. Neither John nor Mary were home

EXERCISE 2.
1. either....or....
2. Either....or...
3. either....or....
4. either....or...
5. neither...nor....
6. neither...nor....
7. either....or
8. either....or

EXERCISE 3.
1. Neither Valencia nor Hiroshima are capital cities.
2. Both Hong Kong and Singapore are overpopulated.
3. Neither San Francisco nor Buenos Aires are in Europe.
4. Neither Tokyo nor Athens are coffee producers.
5. Both Paris and Lyon are in France.
6. Both Santiago and Mexico City are highly polluted.
7. Neither Cambodia nor Vietnam are developed countries.
8. Both the Sahara Desert and the Atacama Desert are uninhabited.