

## EITHER...OR / NEITHER...NOR / BOTH...AND

(Supplementary Material for Gamma Lower Module)

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.