

68 “Either / neither / both”

“Either,” “neither,” and “both” are used in situations where two options are being described. They indicate that one, two, or none of the options are possible.

See also:

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68.1 “EITHER,” “NEITHER,” AND “BOTH”

“Either” means “one or the other” of two options and is used before a singular noun.

You could enter **either** tournament.

Indicates that there are two tournaments.



“Neither” means “not one and not the other” of two options and is used before a singular noun. It has the same meaning as a negative statement with “either.”

Neither event is being shown on TV.

[They're not showing either event on TV.]

Singular noun.



“Both” means “each one of two” and is used before a plural noun, or after a plural pronoun.

I ran in **both** [the] races.

A determiner, such as “the,” “these,” or “my” can be used after “both.”



I ran in **them** both.

A plural pronoun can go before “both.”

ANOTHER WAY TO SAY IT

“Either,” “neither,” and “both” can be used alone when the context is clear.



Would you like potatoes or salad with your steak?

Either.



Neither.



Both.

