

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 dishes are** delicious); **either** and **neither** are singular (**Neither of them has** onions).

1 Meaning

■ AND ■

There were dishes piled up on **both** sides of the counter.

I have two jobs. **Both** of them are in restaurants.

■ OR ■

There was no space to pile dishes on **either** side of the sink.

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

NOT ■ and NOT ■

Neither brand of dish soap seems to get the dishes clean.

Neither of my paycheques has been deposited yet.

2 With *and*, *or* and *nor*

To show clearly that two things are the same:

Both the pizza place **and** the coffee shop have excellent service.

(The pizza place has excellent service and the coffee shop has excellent service.)

Either the pizza place **or** the coffee shop will be open tonight.

(The pizza place will be open tonight, or the coffee shop; they both won't be open.)

Neither the pizza place **nor** the coffee shop has ever turned a customer away.

(The pizza place has never turned a customer away and the coffee shop has never turned a customer away.)

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

Neither of the restaurants **are** open yet.

Neither the pizza place nor the coffee shop **has** ever been open on a Sunday.