

# 13 both, either, neither; each, every



**Both** these dishes are very different from British food, partly because **neither** contains meat or potatoes.

## 1 Form

	+ NOUN	+ of + the/those/my, etc. + NOUN	+ (NOUN) + VERB (as a subject)
<i>both</i>	<i>both dishes<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>both the dishes/both of the dishes</i>	<i>both (dishes) are tasty</i>
<i>either</i>	<i>either dish</i>	<i>either of the dishes</i>	<i>either (dish) is tasty</i>
<i>neither</i>	<i>neither dish</i>	<i>neither of the dishes</i>	<i>neither (dish) is tasty</i>
<i>each</i>	<i>each dish</i>	<i>each (one) of the dishes</i>	<i>each (dish) is tasty</i>
<i>every</i>	<i>every dish<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>every one of the dishes</i>	<i>every dish is tasty</i>

<sup>1</sup> *Both* is followed by a plural noun and a plural verb. The others are usually singular.

<sup>2</sup> We do not use *every* as a pronoun: ~~X *Every is tasty.*~~ ✓ *Every dish / Every one is tasty.*

## 2 both, either, neither

*Both, either* and *neither* can be objects (*I like **both** dishes*) or subjects (***Both* dishes are tasty**).

- *both* means 'one and the other': ***Both these dishes*** are different from British food.
- *either* (often + *or*) means 'one or the other': *I'm happy with **either Chinese or Indian** food.*  
*My husband's mad about **both** football and cricket, but I don't enjoy **either** of them.*
- *neither* (often + *nor*) means 'not one or the other':  
***Neither Indian nor Chinese*** food is expensive.

With *either* and *neither* we sometimes use a plural verb, especially after *of the* + plural noun:  
***Neither of the children are*** learning French this year.

## 3 each, every

We use *each* and *every* to talk about ALL the people or things in a group:  
*You can find **every** type of food in London. I've tried **each** dish on the menu.*

If there are only two people or things in the group we use *each*, not *every*:  
*The bride had several bracelets on **each** wrist and rings on **every** finger.*

When we use *each*, we think of each member of the group separately:  
***Every student*** in the room stood up when the new Principal came in. (as a group)  
*He then went round the room and spoke to **each student** individually. (one by one)*

⚠ We do not use *each* or *every* + *not* in negative sentences; we use *neither (of)* or *none of*:  
~~X *Every/Each player didn't try hard.*~~

✓ ***Neither player*** tried hard / ***None of the players*** tried hard.

But we can use *not every*: ***Not every player*** tried hard. (= Most tried hard, but not all.)

## 4 all or althe whole

We use *all the* before plural or uncountable nouns for something 'complete':  
*He's eaten **all the** bread. Have you finished **all the** olives?*

We also use *all* after pronouns: ***They all*** arrived at the same time. *He's eaten **it all**.*

We use *a whole/the whole* before singular nouns:  
*I've used **a whole tank** of petrol going to the hospital this week.*  
*Have you eaten **the whole** cake?*