

UNIT 8 either... neither

1. 'either' is used when two choices are given and both are on equal standing (equally good or equally bad).

Example A

Both of these frames are suitable for the photo.

Answer

Either frame **is** suitable for the photo.

NOTE:

As the word 'either' refers to only one of two objects, the verb which follows is usually singular. In this case, 'is' follows 'the singular 'frame'.

2. 'neither' is used when a negative connotation is needed for both subjects mentioned in a sentence.

Example B

Lea is not here. Olive is not here.

Answer

Neither Lea nor Olive is here.

NOTE:

As 'neither' has a negative meaning, the word 'not' is left out in the answer.

Example C

Both women are ugly.

Answer

Neither woman is pretty.

NOTE:

The word 'women' is changed to singular 'woman' in the answer. Because of this, 'are' is changed to the singular 'is'. Note also that the word 'ugly' has been changed to the opposite 'pretty'. 'Neither' in the sentence tells us that the women are not pretty.

EXERCISE

For each question, rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in one sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

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1. The twins were out today.

Neither _____

2. This boy did not steal the money. That boy did not steal the money.

Neither _____

3. Betsy does not mind this flavour of ice-cream. She doesn't mind the other flavour too.

either

4. Both books are just as suitable for a five-year-old

Either _____

*5. Both colours look good on you

either

6. My parents are still awake

Neither _____

7. The bicycle wheels are deflated.

Neither _____

8. This car will serve our purpose. That car will serve our purpose just as well.

Either _____

9. I can take this seat. That seat is fine with me too.

either

*10. The two dresses are long and lovely.

Neither _____