



Either / Neither / Both: Both, Either and Neither: Basic Meaning

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- ___ children are at school today — Jack and Emma.
a) Neither
b) Both
c) Either
d) Every
- There are two films on tonight. We can watch ___ one — you choose.
a) both
b) neither
c) all
d) either
- ___ restaurant was good. The food was terrible at the first one and the second one.
a) Neither
b) Both
c) Either
d) Each
- I have two sisters and ___ live in London.
a) neither
b) either
c) both
d) all
- Would you like tea or coffee? — ___ is fine. I don't mind.
a) Both
b) Either
c) Neither
d) Any
- I asked two people for directions, but ___ person could help me.
a) neither
b) both
c) either
d) each
- I've been to Paris and Rome. I loved ___ cities.
a) neither
b) every
c) either
d) both
- You can sit on ___ side of the table — there's space on the left and the right.
a) both
b) neither
c) either
d) every
- I tried on two jackets, but ___ fitted me well. They were both too small.
a) both
b) neither
c) either
d) every
- There were two questions and ___ answers are correct. Well done!
a) both
b) neither
c) every
d) any
- We can meet on Monday or Tuesday. ___ day works for me.
a) Both
b) Neither
c) Any
d) Either



Answers

1. b) Both
2. d) either
3. a) Neither
4. c) both
5. b) Either
6. a) neither
7. d) both
8. c) either
9. b) neither
10. a) both
11. d) Either
12. c) either
13. b) Both
14. a) either
15. d) neither
16. c) Both
17. a) either
18. b) neither
19. d) Both
20. c) Neither



Explanations

1. “Both” (b)

'Both' means the two together. Jack and Emma are two children, and they are both at school. 'Both' + plural noun + plural verb.

2. “either” (d)

'Either' means one or the other of two. The speaker is saying the other person can choose which film to watch. 'Either one' = whichever one you like.

3. “Neither” (a)

'Neither' means not one and not the other. Both restaurants had terrible food, so neither was good. 'Neither' + singular noun + singular verb.

4. “both” (c)

'Both' is used as a pronoun here meaning 'the two of them together'. 'Both' takes a plural verb ('live'). 'All' is not used for exactly two people.

5. “Either” (b)

'Either' means one or the other — it doesn't matter which. The speaker is happy with tea or coffee. 'Either' + singular verb ('is').

6. “neither” (a)

'Neither person' means not one person and not the other. The word 'but' signals a negative result. 'Neither' + singular noun + singular verb.

7. “both” (d)

'Both' + plural noun ('cities') is correct when talking about two things together. The speaker enjoyed Paris and Rome equally. 'Either' and 'neither' take singular nouns.

8. “either” (c)

'Either side' means one side or the other — it doesn't matter which. A table has two sides, so 'either' is correct. 'Either' + singular noun.

9. “neither” (b)

'Neither' means not one and not the other. Both jackets were too small, so neither fitted the speaker. 'But' signals a negative outcome.

10. “both” (a)

'Both' is correct because there are exactly two questions. 'Both' + plural noun ('answers') + plural verb ('are'). 'Every' needs a singular noun.

11. “Either” (d)

'Either day' means Monday or Tuesday — it doesn't matter which one. 'Either' + singular noun ('day'). 'Both' would need a plural noun ('Both days work...').

12. “either” (c)

'Either road' means one road or the other. Since both roads take the same time, you can choose either one. 'Either' + singular noun.

13. “Both” (b)

'Both' means the two students together. Anna and Ben are two people, and they both passed. 'Both' + plural noun + plural verb.

14. “either” (a)

'Either bus' means one or the other. Since both buses go to the same place, you can choose either one. 'Either' + singular noun.

15. “neither” (d)

'Neither' means not one and not the other. Sarah couldn't come, and Tom couldn't come either, so the speaker ate alone.

16. “Both” (c)

'Both' is correct because there are exactly two teams in a final. 'Both' + plural noun ('teams'). 'Every' needs a singular noun.

17. “either” (a)

'Either room' means one room or the other. The speaker is giving a choice between two bedrooms. 'Either' + singular noun.

18. “neither” (b)

'Neither' means not one and not the other. The speaker didn't enjoy the chicken or the fish. 'But' and 'disappointed' signal a negative meaning.

19. “Both” (d)

'Both' means the two parents together. Mum and dad (= two parents) were both there. 'Both' + plural noun + plural verb.

20. “Neither” (c)

'Neither' means not one and not the other. The birthday is not in May and not in June — it's in July. 'Neither' is used as a short answer here.