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Correlative conjunctions work *together in pairs*. We use them to *link* one part of a sentence to another.

The main correlative conjunctions we can use are '**either... or**', '**neither... nor**', '**both... and**' and '**not only... but also**.'

Either...or

'*Either... or*' is used to *link two choices*. We put '*either*' before the first choice. We put '*or*' between the two choices:

- *It's **either** pink **or** red.* (It could be pink, or it could be red.)
- *We can go to **either** Italy **or** Spain next year.* (We could go to Italy, or we could go to Spain).
- ***Either** John **or** Henry has your coat.* (John might have your coat, or Henry might have your coat).

Neither...nor

'*Neither... nor*' is used to *link two choices that are not available*. Again, we put '*neither*' before, and '*nor*' between:

- *It is **neither** blue **nor** green.* (It is not blue, and it is not green).
- *I am **neither** hungry **nor** thirsty.* (I am not hungry, and I am not thirsty).
- ***Neither** my sister **nor** my brother went on holiday.* (My sister and my brother did not go on holiday).

Note: When we use 'either... or' or 'neither... nor', we have two choices. The verb must agree with the second subject.

- Neither Tom nor Ryan is coming to the party. (Ryan is singular.) NOT: ~~Neither Tom nor Ryan are coming to the party.~~

Both...and

'Both... and' is used to link *two things* that are *equally included*. Again, we put 'both' before, and 'and' between:

- **Both** Sally **and** Harry were eating. (Sally was eating. Harry was also eating.)
- I like **both** cake **and** chocolate. (I like cake. I also like chocolate.)
- My friend is **both** clever **and** funny. (My friend is clever. My friend is also funny.)

Note: When we use 'both... and', the verb is always plural because both things are equally included.

- Both Karen and Lucy are eating.

Let's summarize this information:

Both - Either - Neither



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<p>Both ... and the two alternatives are possible</p> <p>Both</p> <p> and </p> <p>Both coffee and tea are good for you.</p> <p>© VocabularyPage.com</p>	<p>Either...or choice between two alternatives</p> <p>Either</p> <p> or </p> <p>We should brew either coffee or tea. Which do you prefer?</p>	<p>Neither ... nor none of the choices</p> <p>Neither</p> <p> nor </p> <p>We brewed neither coffee nor tea.</p> <p>#vocabpage</p>
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via https://vk.com/@project_rgups-also-too-well-as-either-neither-so-ispolzovanie

Not only...but also

'Not only... but also' is similar to 'both... and'. It is used to link two things that are *equally included*. Usually, 'not only' is before something we expect, and 'but also' is before something we do not expect:

- *The dress is **not only** beautiful, **but also** very comfortable.* (The dress is beautiful. It is also very comfortable.)
- *I **not only** like cake, **but I also** like salad.* (I like cake. I also like salad.)
- *My friend is **not only** clever, **but also** sporty.* (My friend is clever. My friend is also sporty.)

Note: Remember the 'either... or' and 'neither... nor' rule? When we use 'not only... but also', the verb must also agree with the second subject.

- Not only my friends, but also my Mother wants to visit. (Mother is singular.)

NOT: ~~Not only my friends, but also my Mother want to visit.~~

Here's a good video from 7ESL explaining correlative conjunctions and their usage:

See also:

[Coordinating Conjunctions](#)

[Conjunctions of Contrast](#)

[Linking Words of Cause and Effect](#)