



## GRAMMAR

### **EITHER / OR VERSUS NEITHER / NOR**

- **EITHER / OR** (... o ...)

It is used in a sentence in the affirmative sense when referring to a **choice between two possibilities**.

Example: We can **either** eat now **or** after the show; it's up to you. -> Podemos comer ahora or después del espectáculo; lo que tú prefieras.

- **NEITHER / NOR** (ni... ni...)

It is used in a sentence in the negative sense when you want **to say that two or more things are not true**.

Example: **Neither** my mother **nor** my father went to university. -> Ni mi madre ni mi padre fueron a la Universidad.

### **SINGULAR OR PLURAL?**

When using either/or and neither/nor, note the following rules:

#### **1. If both elements are singular, then the verb is singular too:**

- Either the father or the mother has to attend the meeting. -> Father and mother are singular; so the verb *has* is singular too.
- Neither Leila nor Nancy is going to write the report. -> Leila and Nancy are singular; so the verb *is* is singular, too.

#### **2. However, if one of the elements is plural, you must use a plural verb:**

- Either Sue or the girls are going to prepare dinner tonight. -> The girls are plural; so the verb *are* is plural, too.
- Neither the teacher nor the students were in the classroom this morning. -> The students are plural; so the verb *were* is plural, too.

## **WORKSHEET**

**Choose the correct pair (either / or and neither / nor).**

- 1) In this game, you **either** win **or** lose. It depends on you.
- 2) **Neither** Sue **nor** Sara will help you with your homework. They are both busy at the moment.
- 3) This is my offer. You **either** take it **or** leave it.
- 4) When I go to the restaurant, I eat **either** fish **or** roast chicken. These are my favorite meals.
- 5) His father believed **neither** his son **nor** his friend. He thought that both were lying.
- 6) I need **neither** your help **nor** your compassion. I can perfectly handle my problems all alone.
- 7) **Either** Charly **or** Bill will write the report. Just ask one of them.
- 8) **Either** you return the money you had stolen **or** I'll call the police.
- 9) My mum can **neither** read **nor** write. She is illiterate.
- 10) You can use **neither** this computer **nor** the other one. Someone must fix them first.