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nei·ther  (nē thər, nī -)

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adj.

Not one or the other; not either: *Neither shoe feels comfortable.*

pron.

Not either one; not the one or the other: *Neither of the twins is here. Neither will do. Neither of them is incorrect.*

conj.
1. Not either; not in either case. Used with the correlative conjunction *nor*: *Neither we nor they want it. She neither called nor wrote. I got neither the gift nor the card.*

2. Also not: *If he won't go, neither will she.*

adv.

Similarly not; also not: *Just as you would not, so neither would they.*

[Middle English, from Old English *nāwther*, *nāhwæther* (influenced by *æghwæther*, *ægther*, either) : *nā*, not; see **ne** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#) + *hwæther*, which of two; see **k^wo-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Usage Note: According to the traditional rule, *neither* is used only to mean "not one or the other of two." To refer to "none of several," *none* is preferred: *None (not neither) of the three opposition candidates would make a better president than the incumbent.* · The traditional rule also holds that *neither* is grammatically singular: *Neither candidate is having an easy time with the press.* However, it is often used with a plural verb, especially when followed by *of* and a plural: *Neither of the candidates are really expressing their own views.* · As a conjunction *neither* is properly followed by *nor*, not *or*, in formal style: *Neither prayers nor curses (not or curses) did any good.* See Usage Notes at [either](#), [every](#), [he](#)¹, [none](#), [nor](#)¹, [or](#)¹.

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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