







Distributives

What is a distributive?

Distributives are words that refer to a group of people or things.

-  Whole group
-  Divided group
-  Each individual in group
-  Pairs in a group

Whole group

all

All paper is recycled.
All photos are banned.

Whole group

all

Look at all these people!
I haven't finished all my work.

Whole group

all

Look at all of these people!
I haven't finished all of my work.

Whole group

all

Look at all of them!
I haven't finished all of it.

Divided group

half

Half a mile
Half a metre

Divided group

half

*Only half the group completed the race.
I've only done half my homework.*

Divided group

half

Only half of the group completed the race.

I've only done half of my homework.

Divided group

half

Half of us
Half of them

Individual in group

each
every

Individual in group

each

Each person in the group is important

Each of the dogs are friendly.

Each of us are happy.

Individual in group

every

Every person in the group is important

Individual in group

every

Every bread is mouldy

Individual in group

every

Every piece of bread is mouldy

Pair in group

**both
either
neither**

Pair in group

both (2/2)

Both dogs are cute

Both of the dogs are cute

Both of them are cute

Pair in group

either (1/2)

Either doctor is available

Either of the doctors are available

Either of them are available

Pair in group

neither (0/2)

Neither doctor is available

Neither of the doctors are available

Neither of them are available

We've already learnt the basic definitions on either and neither, let's recap them before expanding on this further.

Either

Either is used to express 1 of 2 and is used with singular nouns.

Either doctor is available - you can choose.

When we use either with a negative verb it has the same meaning as neither.

I don't like either doctor.

In this case, we can also eliminate the noun altogether when in context.

I don't like either.

Either

Remember we can insert “of” to these sentences too, but it must be followed by a demonstrative adjective, possessive adjective, object pronoun or article. In this case, it will be followed by a plural noun instead.

I don't like either of the houses.

I don't like either of these houses.

I don't like either of your houses.

I don't like either of them.

Neither

Neither is used to express 0 of 2 and is used with singular nouns.

Neither doctor is available - they are both busy.

Neither

Remember we can insert “of” to these sentences too, but it must be followed by a demonstrative adjective, possessive adjective, object pronoun or article. In this case, it will be followed by a plural noun instead.

Neither of the houses are nice.

Neither of these houses are nice.

Neither of your houses are nice.

Neither of them are nice.

We also have two part phrases that can be used with either and neither.

Either

Either can be used with OR to offer two options. Your listener would be expected to answer with one of the two presented options.

Shall we have either Chinese or Italian food tonight?

We can watch either a romcom or a horror film.

Neither

Neither can be used with NOR to express the same opinion about two things.

Neither Kelly nor Jane attended class today.

I like neither strawberries nor bananas.

“Neither” and “nor” are negative words in English, which means they must be used with affirmative verbs and phrases to avoid a double negative. If there is a negative verb, we must use “either” and “or” instead.

I don't like either strawberries or bananas.

And a final note on neither ...

Neither

In informal spoken English, we can also use neither to mean “also not”. Typically, this would be followed by the auxiliary verb or main verb and then the subject.

I don't like strawberries.

Neither do I !



Practice 1

Choose the correct answer to complete the sentences.

Distributives

_____ Sam and Jane have completed the exam. They got 100%.

- a) Neither
- b) Both
- c) Either

Distributives

_____ Sam and Jane have completed the exam. They got 100%.

- a) Neither
- b) Both**
- c) Either

Distributives

Can you _____ please take a worksheet - one each, there are plenty!

- a) Half
- b) All
- c) Every

Distributives

Can you _____ please take a worksheet - one each, there are plenty!

- a) Half
- b) All**
- c) Every

Distributives

He gave _____ of us some really great advice. Thank you!

- a) Each
- b) Every
- c) None

Distributives

He gave _____ of us some really great advice. Thank you!

- a) **Each**
- b) Every
- c) None

Distributives

We should all get our vaccines _____ year.

- a) Both
- b) Every
- c) All

Distributives

We should all get our vaccines _____ year.

- a) Both
- b) Every**
- c) All

Distributives

_____ of you can do activity B and the other _____ can do activity C.

- a) Both
- b) Half
- c) All

Distributives

_____ of you can do activity B and the other _____ can do activity C.

- a) Both
- b) Half**
- c) All

Distributives

You can choose the restaurant - I like _____, so you choose.

- a) Both
- b) Either
- c) All

Distributives

You can choose the restaurant - I like _____, so you choose.

- a) **Both**
- b) Either
- c) All

Distributives

_____ child wrote a poem in class.

- a) Each
- b) Every
- c) All

Distributives

_____ child wrote a poem in class.

- a) **Each**
- b) Every
- c) All

Distributives

So A and B are both incorrect - _____ of them are correct!

- a) Either
- b) All
- c) Neither

Distributives

So A and B are both incorrect - _____ of them are correct!

- a) Either
- b) All
- c) Neither**

Distributives

I love _____ moment we spend together.

- a) Both
- b) Each
- c) Half

Distributives

I love _____ moment we spend together.

- a) Both
- b) Each**
- c) Half

Distributives

Kelly and Wendy, you are _____ correct, well done!

- a) Both
- b) Neither
- c) Every

Distributives

Kelly and Wendy, you are _____ correct, well done!

- a) **Both**
- b) Neither
- c) Every

Distributives

_____ my two sisters are amazing at the piano.

- a) All
- b) Both
- c) Each

Distributives

_____ my two sisters are amazing at the piano.

- a) All
- b) Both**
- c) Each

Distributives

He only ate _____ his dinner. He was saving the other _____ for later.

- a) All
- b) Half
- c) Neither

Distributives

He only ate _____ his dinner. He was saving the other _____ for later.

- a) All
- b) **Half**
- c) Neither

Distributives

_____ person understands this lesson, they're both totally lost.

- a) Either
- b) Neither
- c) Both

Distributives

_____ person understands this lesson, they're both totally lost.

- a) Either
- b) Neither**
- c) Both

Distributives

_____ person has the right to privacy.

- a) All
- b) Every
- c) Both

Distributives

_____ person has the right to privacy.

- a) All
- b) Every**
- c) Both



Practice 2

Rewrite the sentence using a distributive to replace the words underlined. (all, half, each, every, both, neither, either)

Distributives

- 1) Sam and Katy are not vegetarians.
- 2) You can choose chocolate cake or vanilla cake.
- 3) I want the entire group to be punctual.
- 4) The individual animals in the zoo are cared for.
- 5) Sally and Peter are not happy.
- 6) One of the two flowers are still blooming.
- 7) 50% of the students want to change class.
- 8) The individual people in our band are good at their instruments.
- 9) The two dogs are very sweet.
- 10) None of the two vets are free.

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Distributives

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- 1) Who ate the whole cake?
- 2) Only 50% of the class passed the exam.
- 3) I couldn't finish my entire homework, sorry.
- 4) One of the two computers is broken.
- 5) The individual singers in the choir are very good.
- 6) The overall project was very good because individual people played their part.
- 7) The two bananas have gone bad.
- 8) One of two teachers will be free at 4pm.
- 9) None of the two dogs will get dinner tonight.
- 10) The whole dinner was terrible.

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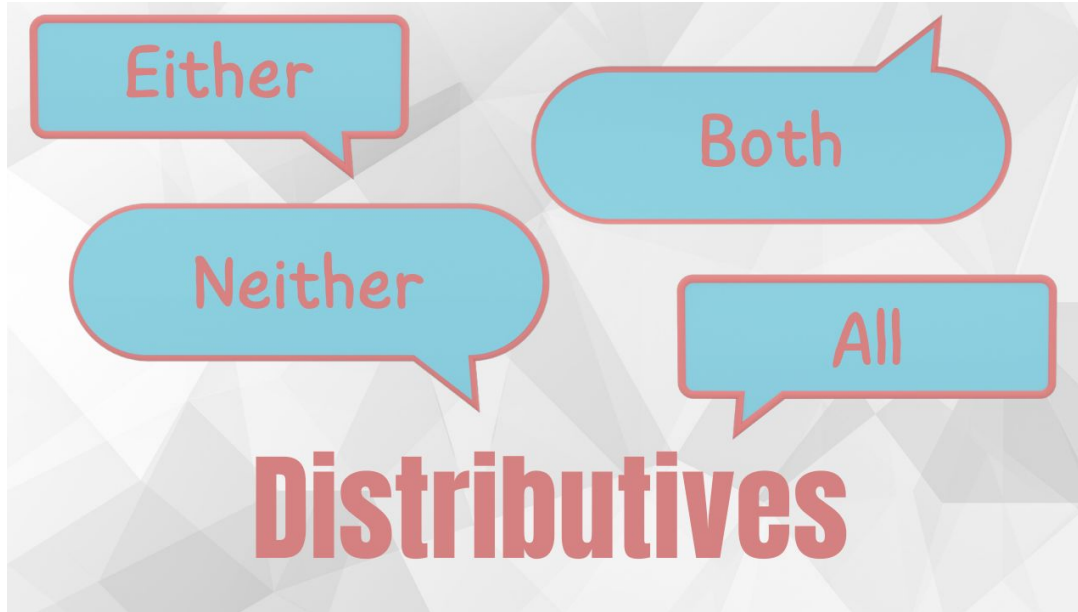
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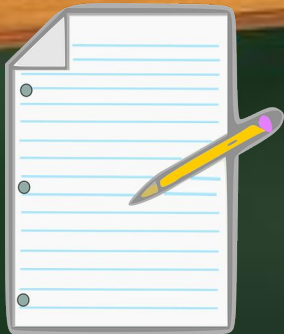
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- 9) None of the two dogs will get dinner tonight. **Neither**
- 10) The whole dinner was terrible. **All the dinner was terrible**

REVIEW



Distributives



HOMEWORK

COMPLETE THE QUIZ

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/quizzes/distributives-quiz/>