







# Error Spotting Capsule 2 Either - Or & Neither - Nor

If you are preparing for competitive exams of **Baking**, **SSC**, **etc**. you will encounter English Language and Comprehension sections. One of the most important aspects of the English section, in any exam, is to **learn to Spot Errors and Correct Sentences**. These Error Spotting and Sentence Correction Grammar Capsules are aimed at helping you learn a little Grammar every day. Let us start with Error Spotting Capsule 2 which deals with the concept of "Either - Or" and "Neither - Nor".

### Either... or



The teacher said, "We have both football and volleyball. But, we cannot play both now. *Either we can play football, or we can play volleyball; the choice is yours.*"











The teacher said, "We don't have a chessboard or a carom board. We can play neither chess nor carom, now."

#### Rules for "Either... or" and "Neither... nor"

- **Subject verb agreement:** The verb must agree with the last noun/pronoun of the subject part.
  - Either Reena or you are going to be the leader.
  - Neither he nor <u>I am</u> going to talk about this.
- The subjects in plural form are kept closer to the verb (last noun/pronoun) and the verb must agree with them.
  - Neither she nor <u>her parents are</u> coming.
  - Either the teacher or the students are asked about it.
- **More than two options:** Usually, we encounter either/or and neither/nor sentences with two choices. But, more than two choices can be given.
  - Either Miya or Ram or Saran will be there.
  - Neither you will go out nor you will play inside nor you will watch the TV.













#### Spot the error in the following sentences:

- 1. Neither Siya nor Raj or Priya went there.
- 2. Either they or she has to do that.
- 3. Neither the teacher nor the students were in the classroom this morning.
- 4. Either Ram or I are going to clean the floor.
- 5. You can either call me or send me a message.

#### Here are the answers!

<u>Explanation 1:</u> Neither Siya nor Raj *or* **nor** Priya went there. When more than two options are given, each extra option must be added with a 'nor' before it in the case of *neither...* nor and with an 'or' in the case of *either...* or.

<u>Explanation 2:</u> Either *she or they have* to do that. The plural subject must be kept closer to the verb and the verb must agree with that plural subject (because it is the last noun/pronoun of the subject and the verb always agree with the last one).

<u>Explanation 3:</u> No error. The plural subject is kept closer to the verb and the verb agrees with the last noun/pronoun of the subject part.

<u>Explanation 4:</u> Either Ram or *I am* going to clean the floor. 'Ram or I' may trick you to assume the subject is plural (both Ram and I are mentioned, two persons, and hence, plural! But NOT!!!). 'Either Ram or I' means *one* of us and hence, the subject is singular. The verb must agree with the last one, here, I.

Explanation 5: No error.







## Which are the phrases about which you want to learn more? Share them with us in the comments!

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