
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

6 Minute Grammar

Quantifiers



This is not a word-for-word transcript

Finn

Hello and welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Finn.

Catherine

And me, Catherine. In this programme we're talking about the words **all**, **every**, **each**, **both**, **either** and **neither**...

Finn

... also known as quantifiers. So let's start by listening to Darren. He's been talking about how to choose a tablet.

Catherine

While you listen, think about this question: Why do customers have difficulty choosing a tablet?

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Darren

Should you have **either** this one **or** that one? **All** customers choosing a tablet ask themselves that question because **each** tablet is slightly different. Take the Apik 1 and the Negus 2. **Both** tablets have similar specs. While **neither** tablet is heavy, the Negus 2 is lighter. This could make a difference **every** time you go out. **Each of** the tablets has 2 gigabytes of RAM, but the Negus 2 is the faster device. And then there's the cost. While **neither of** them seems much better than the other, the Negus 2 is considerably cheaper.

Finn

That was Darren. So we asked you: Why do buyers have difficulty choosing tablets?

Catherine

And the answer is: Because **each** tablet has slightly different features.

Finn

Now **each**, **every** and **all** can mean the full amount or total number of something. So we could also say **every tablet** or **all tablets**.

Catherine

Each and **every** are followed by a singular noun and verb. We say **each tablet has** and **every tablet has** - but **all** is followed by a plural noun and verb, so it's **all tablets have**. We could also say **all the tablets have**, but we don't use **the** with **each** or **every**.

Finn

OK. There's also a slight difference in meaning between **every** and **each**. We often use **each** when we're thinking about the individual members of a group.

Catherine

That's right. So to talk about about the features of individual tablets, Darren said **each tablet**. But here's what he said later on.

INSERT CLIP 1

Darren

This could make a difference **every time** you go out.

Catherine

There he's thinking about all the times, not individual times.

Finn

Right. Listen for more quantifiers in this clip.

INSERT CLIP 2

Darren

Should you have **either** this one **or** that one? **Both** tablets have similar specs. While **neither** tablet is heavy, the Negus 2 is lighter.

Catherine

There we heard the words **either**, **neither**, or as some people say, **either**, **neither**, and **both**. We use these quantifiers to talk about two people or things. So in the phrase **Both tablets have similar specs**, **Both tablets** means **this tablet and the other tablet**.

Finn

Neither tablet is heavy. That means **not this one and not the other one**.

Catherine

Darren asked: **Should you have either this one or that one?** **Either** is used mainly in questions and negatives, to indicate a choice between two, or sometimes more than two, options.

Finn

Right. Let's take a quick look at the verbs we use after **both** and **neither**. Listen. **Both the tablets have** similar specs. **Neither tablet is** heavy.

Catherine

So after **both**, the verb is positive and plural – **have**. But after **either** and **neither**, the verb is positive and singular - **is**. Let's have another clip.

INSERT CLIP 3

Darren

Each of the tablets has 2 gigabytes of RAM, but the Negus 2 is the faster device. While **neither of** them seems much better than the other, the Negus 2 is considerably cheaper.

Catherine

So we heard **each of the tablets** and **neither of them**. You can use **all**, **each**, **neither**, **either** and **both** with **of** and a plural noun phrase – like **the tablets** – or with a pronoun – like **them**.

Finn

Yes. So you could say **both of the tablets** or **both of them**.

Catherine

Yes and in this case, **each of the tablets** means the same as **both of the tablets**.

Finn

Because there are only two.

Catherine

Exactly.

Finn

But we say **each of the tablets has** - that's singular verb - but **both of the tablets have** - and that's a plural verb.

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Catherine

And it's quiz time!

Finn

OK.

Catherine

Number one: Which is correct: a) Both of us lives in London. Or b) Both of us live in London.

Finn

And the answer is b) Both of us live in London.

Catherine

And let's do number two: Which is correct? a) Neither of us likes the countryside. Or b) Neither of us doesn't like the countryside.

Finn

This one ... It's a) Neither of us likes the countryside.

Catherine

Number three: Which is correct? a) Answer each questions or b) Answer each of the questions.

Finn

The answer is b). Answer each of the questions.

Catherine

Fantastic! And that's the end of the quiz.

Finn

There's more about this at bbclearningenglish.com. Join us again soon for more 6 Minute Grammar.

Both

Bye!