



24 NEITHER ... phrases and expressing doubts NEITHER HIM NOR HER

- Sarah: I don't understand them. I mean both are of an elusive nature.
- Wentworth: Who are you referring to?
- Sarah: I'm referring to Mark and Mary. I understand neither him nor her.
- Wentworth: Why do you say that?
- Sarah: Last week, they came and asked several questions. I answered and they didn't seem satisfied. I wonder if they understood my answers, or if they acted as if they understood. I suspect they didn't mean to bother me more so they didn't solicit me nor tried to clarify what they had already heard.
- Wentworth: What makes you say that?
- Sarah: We were supposed to work together for a project but they have undoubtedly a misconception concerning my role in our group
- Wentworth: Can you elaborate?
- Sarah: I decided to call them as I didn't hear from them for 3 days. Both of them didn't attend my call. Assuming they weren't available at that moment, I tried to call them back later at 6pm then 7pm and one last time around 8pm. I also made the assumption that they might be working or exercising even sleeping, I was positive that, the very next day, they would reach me ...But neither of them sent me a message or dialed my number. We are supposed to work together and exchange ideas but we have no interaction whatsoever. I don't mean to harass them or sound annoyed or annoying. I presume I'll have to do it on my own now.
- Wentworth: If it is a group project, theoretically you three must collaborate because the three of you are equally in charge and responsible for it. You need to speak out, and sort things out. As you said, there must be some misunderstanding. You need to clear it and quickly. Cheer up!
- Sarah: Thanks. Have a nice afternoon!



NEITHER HIM NOR HER	Assuming...
To mean	available
both	To call back
ELUSIVE	later
A nature	around
To refer to	also
Neither... nor...	To make an assumption
To ask a question	MIGHT
To answer	To exercise
To seem	even
satisfied	positive
To wonder	'the very next day'
if	Would =past form of 'will'
To act	Neither (of them)
AS IF...	To send/sent/sent
To suspect	To dial a number
To bother	To exchange
To solicit	WHATSOEVER
To try to	To harass

clarify	To sound
already	annoyed
Had heard = pluperfect of the verb 'hear'	annoying
What makes you say that ?	To presume
To be supposed to (verb)	On one's own
together	theoretically
undoubtedly	Have to=MUST
A misconception	To collaborate
concerning	equally
To elaborate	Responsible for
To decide to (v)	Speak out
As=because	A misunderstanding
To hear/heard/heard	'To sort things out'
To hear from	To clear
Both of them	quickly
To attend a call	Cheer up !
To assume=to suppose	Have a nice afternoon



Grammar: NEITHER ... phrases

1/ NEITHER ... NOR

In English, we use NEITHER...NOR... to connect two negative alternatives or more.

a)

Example: I like **neither** tea **nor** coffee

= I don't like tea and coffee

= I like **neither** of them = I like **neither of the two**

1/ NOT... NOT EITHER

a) 2 actions

An equivalent to NEITHER... NOR is NOT...NOT EITHER. It is less formal but very frequent.

Example: I **don't** like tea and I **don't** like coffee **either**

= I don't like tea and coffee

b) 2 people

Another use can include two different subjects who have in common a negative statement.

If the auxiliary is in negative form, we use either after. The pattern is: **auxiliary+ NOT + EITHER**

Example: 'I don't like tea, Nicola **doesn't either**'

= 'I don't like tea and Nicola doesn't like tea'

If the auxiliary is in positive form, we use a different order: **NEITHER + auxiliary + subject**

Example: 'I don't like tea, **neither does** Nicolas'

= 'I don't like tea and Nicola doesn't like tea'

Other example with a modal: 'I can't drive. Neither can Sam. Nor can Sylvia'

= I can't drive. Sam can't drive. Sylvia can't drive'