

# JOINING NEGATIVE IDEAS

## NOT .... OR .... (common)

When **NOT** (used once) refers to two or more verbs, nouns, adjectives, etc, we usually join them with **OR**.

- He didn't come to work **or** call to say he wasn't coming.

## NOT ...., NOR ... (emphasis)

We use this structure to give emphasis to the second part of the sentence. When a clause is used after **nor**, we invert the subject and the verb.

- He didn't come to work, **nor** did he call to say he wasn't coming.

## NOT... NEITHER ... (less common than NOT... , NOR...)

As is the case with **NOT... NOR...**, we use this structure for emphasis. This structure is less common than "NOT... NOR". We invert the subject and the verb after **neither**.

- He didn't come to work, **neither** did he call to say he wasn't coming.

## NEITHER ... NOR ... (formal)

We can use **neither** as a conjunction with **nor**. It connects two or more negative alternatives. This can sound formal in speaking.

- He **neither** came to work **nor** called to say he wasn't coming.

## NOT... AND NEITHER ... / NOT ... AND NOR ...

We used these structures before a positive verb to agree with something negative that has just been said. When a clause is used after **neither/nor**, we invert the subject and the verb.

- He doesn't smoke **and neither** do I. / She's **not** very tall **and neither** is her husband.
- She doesn't like them **and nor** does Jeff.

## NOT ...., ...., OR ....

If we want to link more than two items, we usually only put **or** in front of the last one. After each of the others you put a comma. Often the comma is omitted in front of **or**.

- I don't like drinking, dancing **or** loud music.
- We don't need apples, bread, **or** onions.

## NEITHER...NOR... (NOR...)

As a conjunction "NEITHER" can sometimes be used with "NOR" to link more than two items:

- **Neither** his son **nor** his daughter **nor** his wife were at the funeral.
- I like **neither** hot dogs **nor** mustard **nor** ketchup.

### TYPICAL MISTAKE :

- ✗ I don't like coffe nor tea.
- ✓ I don't like coffee or tea. (common)
- ✓ I don't like coffe, nor (do I like) tea. (emphasis)
- ✓ I like neither coffee nor tea. (formal)