

# JOINING NEGATIVE IDEAS



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

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

- I don't smoke **or** drink, ( not I don't smoke nor drink.) / He didn't come to work today **or** yesterday.
- Effective feedback is **not** praise **or** criticism.

## 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 .

- I don't smoke, **nor** do I drink. / He didn't come to work today, **nor** (did he come) yesterday.
- Effective feedback is **not** praise, **nor** (is it) criticism.

## NOT... NEITHER ...

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 hadn't done any homework, **neither** had he brought any of his books to class.
- This is **not** your best set of exam results by any means but **neither** is it your worst.
- He didn't come to work, **neither** did he call to say he was not coming.

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

We can use neither as a conjunction with nor. It connects two or more negative alternatives.

This can sound formal in speaking.

- I **neither** smoke **nor** drink. / He came to work **neither** today **nor** yesterday.
- Effective feedback is **neither** praise **nor** criticism.

## 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.