"Both"

Both + Two Singular Nouns

The word **"both"** can often be used when the subject contains **two singular nouns**:

	singular noun	and	singular noun	
Both	*the doctor*	*and*	*the nurse*	*monitor the patient.*
	The doctor	*and*	*the nurse*	***both monitor** the patient.*

The word "**both**" can be added in one of the following places:

a) before the subject   ***Both** the doctor and the nurse work…*
b) before the active verb   *The doctor and the nurse **both** work...*
c) in the middle of the passive verb   *The doctor and the nurse are **both** asked …*

Both Brings Two Nouns Together

The word "**both**" is not usually used with words that express difference:

> ***Both** diseases are caused by **different** viruses.*   WRONG

"Both" brings the two nouns together, whereas the word "**different**" separates them, so "**both**" and "**different**" should not be used in the same sentence. Instead, use "**the two**" or the **names of the diseases**:

> ***The two diseases** are caused by **different** viruses.*   CORRECT
> ***Mumps and chickenpox** are caused by **different** viruses.*   CORRECT

This applies to all words that express difference:

> ***Both** diseases **differ** in terms of their symptoms.*   WRONG
> ***The two diseases differ** in terms of their symptoms.*   CORRECT
> ***Mumps and chickenpox differ** in terms of their symptoms.*   CORRECT

Since "**both**" already brings ideas together, it should not be used with other words that express similarity:

> ***Both** diseases are treated by **similar** methods.*   WRONG
> ***Both** diseases **share** some symptoms.*   WRONG

Once again, use *"**the two**"* or the **names of the diseases**:

>***The two diseases*** *are treated by **similar** methods / **share** some symptoms.*
>
> CORRECT
>
>***Mumps and chickenpox*** *are treated by **similar** methods / **share** some symptoms.*
>
> CORRECT

Do Not Use "Not" and "Both"!

The word "**both**" cannot be used in a sentence that has **a negative grammar word**. For instance, "**both**" and **"no"** cannot be used in the same sentence:

>***No*** *cure is available for **both** diseases.* WRONG

Instead, use the word "**either**" with the word "**no**."

>***No*** *cure is available for **either** disease.* CORRECT
>***No*** *cure is available for **either** mumps or chickenpox.* CORRECT

Likewise, "**both**" and "**not**" cannot be used in the same sentence:

>***Both*** *diseases are **not** fatal.* WRONG

Instead, choose one of the following:

>A) delete "**both**" and **"not"** and use the word **"neither"**
>
>>***Neither*** *disease is fatal.* CORRECT
>>***Neither*** *mumps nor chickenpox is fatal.* CORRECT
>
>B) use "**the two**" or use the **names of the diseases** with the word **"not"**:
>
>>***The two*** *diseases are not fatal.* CORRECT
>>***Mumps and chickenpox*** *are not fatal.* CORRECT

"Both" Exercise:

Directions: Decide if the following sentences are correct or if they should be rewritten using "**the two**," "**either**," "**neither**," or **the specific nouns**. Delete or add words as needed.

1) Both conditions are not life-threatening if treated immediately.

_____

_____

2) No cause is known for both polymyositis and dermatomyositis.

_____

_____

3) Both dentistry and nursing are dissimilar.

_____

_____

4) The wound and the surrounding skin are both cleaned.

_____

_____

5) The common cold and the flu both share several symptoms.

_____

_____

6) There is no known physical, psychological, or laboratory test for definitively diagnosing both Pick's disease and Alzheimer's disease.

_____

_____

7) Both the blindness and nerve damage that occur with leprosy are not reversible.

_____

_____

8) A medication called naltrexone hydrochloride, which affects the pleasure centers of the brain, is used to treat both alcoholism and bulimia.

_____

_____

9) Both patients do not need chemotherapy.

_____

_____

10) Both conditions differ with respect to their treatment methods.

_____

_____