

## English Grammar: “either” / “ever”

### 1) **either, or** (*two options*)

- I want to be **either** an engineer **or** an architect.
- You can have **either** fried eggs **or** an omelet for lunch.

(in the these cases, the word “either” is optional)

- **Either** we are alone in the universe, **or** we are not.
- **Either** you tell me who did it, **or** you go to jail.

(in the these cases, the word “either” is necessary)

- It has to be **either** you **or** me!
- You must choose **either** the red pill **or** the blue pill.

(in the these cases, the word “either” is used for emphasis)

### **neither = not + either, nor = not + or**

- I want to be **neither** an engineer **nor** an architect.
- I will choose **neither** the red pill **nor** the blue pill.

### Consider these options:

When I walk my dog in the street, I take **neither** my phone **nor** my wallet.

When I walk to the supermarket, I take **either** my phone **or** my wallet, but not both.

When I drive to the supermarket, I take **both** my phone **and** my wallet.

### 2) **ever** (*once, sometimes, in your life*)

- Have you **ever** jumped from an airplane? (*ever = once in your life*)
- Would you **ever** cheat on your spouse? (*ever = once in your life*)
- I haven't **ever** cheated on my wife. (*ever = not once in my life*)
- Do you **ever** eat vegetarian food? (*ever = sometimes*)
- It's the best film that I have **ever** seen. (*ever = in my life*)

(Note that ‘forever’ means ‘for eternity’ and has nothing to do with ‘ever’.)

### **never = not + ever**

- I have **never** seen an igloo.
- **Never** smoke!
- We **never** go to the park.
- My father **never** went abroad.

**Exercise.**

*Complete the following sentences with 'ever', 'never', 'either', 'neither', 'or', 'nor':*

1. Have you \_\_\_\_\_ swum with dolphins?

2. Do you want to be a doctor \_\_\_\_\_ a nurse?

3a. I want to be \_\_\_\_\_ a doctor \_\_\_\_\_ a nurse. I love medicine!

3b. I want to be \_\_\_\_\_ a doctor \_\_\_\_\_ a nurse. I prefer to be a lawyer!

4a. We have \_\_\_\_\_ visited New York. Let's go next year!

4b. We haven't \_\_\_\_\_ visited New York. Let's go next year!