

English Vocabulary: “else”

Depending on the context, ‘else’ can have different meanings.

1) “more/other” (things):

- The meat is horrible! **Everything else** is OK – only the meat is bad.
- This food is not very tasty – I want **something else** to eat.
- I don’t need **anything else**, I have all that I need.
- Is there **anything else** that I can do for you?
- I have finished all my homework. There is **nothing else** to do.
- In a restaurant: Waiter: “**Anything else?**”
 Customer: “No thanks – **nothing else.**”

2) “more/other” (people):

- I don’t like Peter, but I like **everybody else** in my class.
- I think Mr. Brown is a terrible teacher, so I want **somebody else** to teach me.
- Mr. Zabriskie is a fantastic teacher, so I don’t want **anybody else**.
- Mr. Harrison is not available. Do you want to speak to **anybody else?**
- Mr. Crimple is the best teacher. **Nobody else** is as good as him.

3) “different/other” (places):

- I haven’t visited Acre, but I’ve visited **everywhere else** in Brazil.
- We always go to Mexico for our vacation. Let’s go **somewhere else** this year.
- I love France. I don’t want to go **anywhere else** for our vacation.
- The theater is full on Saturday. Do you want to go **anywhere else?**
- My wife only travels to Paris. **Nowhere else** is good enough for her!

4) Questions:

- I have two volunteers for tomorrow. **Who else** wants to go?
- I’ve tried everything, but nothing works. **What else** can I do?
- All the parking spaces are occupied. **Where else** can I park?
- The trains and buses are on strike today. **How else** can I go to work?
- Peter must be sleeping. **Why else** would he ignore my calls?
- I can’t go on Monday, as my agenda is full. **When else** can I go?

5) Expressions:

- So what else is new? = What news do you have?
- Nothing else matters. = This is the most important thing.
- Above all else, = Most importantly,
- If all else fails, = In the last possible case,
- or else (alternative) Ex. I need to get \$100 before tomorrow **or else** I can’t go.
- or else (threat) Ex. You will pay me tomorrow – **or else!**

6) **Programming** (for example, Python):

if a == b:

print ("The numbers are equal.")

else:

print ("The numbers are different.")

Exercise 1. Complete the following sentences/questions with two words:

1. I have a big problem with my car, but _____ in my life is fine.
2. Suzy is so perfect! I don't want to marry _____!
3. All the tables are occupied. Is there _____ I can sit?
4. I've cleaned the house, washed the clothes, made the beds and cut the grass.
_____ can I do?
5. We must pay the mortgage this month, _____ the bank will repossess the house.
6. We've already watched two films and three documentaries tonight. Do you really want to watch _____?
7. I've looked for my phone everywhere. I can't think of _____ to look.
8. A: "Would you like to drink _____?" B: "Yes, please – a coffee."
9. You are the only person to visit me. _____ has come to see me.
10. Angry parent: "You will do your homework now, _____!"

Comparison: “more” vs “else”

The words “**more**” and “**else**” are similar but are used in different contexts. They are not always interchangeable. They usually both translate to “*mais*” in Portuguese. For example:

- Would you like **more** coffee? (quantity)
- Would you like anything **else**? (another thing)

MORE

The word “more” is used for an increase in quantity. The opposite of “**more**” is “**less**”.

- I want **more** ice-cream.
- Would you like **more** tea?
- There are **more** cars in São Paulo than in Curitiba.
- Please put **more** sugar in the coffee.
- When I shouted at him, he became **more** angry.
- There are **more** customers than I expected.

ELSE

The word “**else**” is used to talk about something new/extra. It is very common in questions. The word “**else**” doesn’t have an opposite.

- *Waiter in a restaurant to a customer: “Anything **else**?”*
- I have 6 volunteers, but we need more. Is there anybody **else**?
- We should take water, ropes, sleeping bags and a tent. What **else**?
- I have tea, paracetamol, a book and my phone. There is nothing **else** that I need.
- I’ll put a candle on every table and on the counter. Where **else** should I put one?
- John is sick, Angela is on vacation and Fred is at the dentist. Who **else** is not here?

Exercise 2. Complete the following using “**more**” or “**else**”.

1. Is there _____ space in the trunk? I have another suitcase!
2. So, you would like a class on Monday at 2pm and on Wednesday at 3pm. When _____ would you like one?
3. I have everything I need. I don’t need anything _____. Thank you.
4. Each day the relationship between the two countries becomes _____ tense.
5. Goodness me! I have brought you juice, fruit, a sandwich and a cup of coffee! What _____ do you want?!
6. Every time I enter the kitchen, there are _____ dishes to wash!