SO / NEITHER

Short responses that show agreement

A2 grammar lesson

So am I. · So do I. · Neither can I.

Use the right auxiliary verb to agree naturally in conversation.

Warm-up: find your matches

Walk around. Say one sentence. Find someone who agrees.

SENTENCE 1

I like spicy food.

SENTENCE 2

I don’t enjoy early mornings.

SENTENCE 3

I can cook one good dish.

SENTENCE 4

I haven’t travelled abroad this year.

When you agree, answer with a short sentence. Do you already know any?

The basic idea

A short agreement response repeats the auxiliary verb, not the main verb.

SPEAKER A

I am tired.

positive statement

SPEAKER B

So am I.

positive agreement

Formula: SO + auxiliary verb + subject

We use the auxiliary that belongs to the first sentence.

Which auxiliary verb?

Look at the first sentence and choose the helper verb.

be

am / is / are / was / were

I’m late. So am I.

do

do / does / did

I play tennis. So do I.

modal

can / will / should / would

I can swim. So can I.

have

have / has / had

I’ve finished. So have I.

Never use the main verb after so: ✓ So do I. ✗ So like I.

Positive agreement: so

Use so when both people say yes to the same idea.

I’m hungry.	**So am I.**
I like jazz.	**So do I.**
We went by train.	**So did we.**
Maya can drive.	**So can Leo.**

Word order: so + auxiliary + subject

Practice 1: positive agreement

Complete each reply with so + the correct auxiliary + subject.

1. A: I love board games.
   B: _____ _____ _____.

2. A: My brother is at university.
   B: _____ _____ my sister.

3. A: We visited Seville last summer.
   B: _____ _____ we.

4. A: I can speak some French.
   B: _____ _____ I.

Check the tense and the subject before you answer.

Practice 1: answers

1. So do I.

2. So is my sister.

3. So did we.

4. So can I.

Notice: the subject can change. “So is my sister” agrees with “My brother is …”

Negative agreement: neither

Use neither when both people say no to the same idea.

I’m not ready.	**Neither am I.**
I don’t eat meat.	**Neither do I.**
We didn’t see it.	**Neither did we.**
He can’t come.	**Neither can she.**

Formula: NEITHER + auxiliary verb + subject

Neither: two things to remember

The auxiliary becomes positive because neither already carries the negative meaning.

CORRECT

I don’t watch horror films.
Neither do I.

AVOID

I don’t watch horror films.
Neither don’t I.

Neither do I = I don’t either

Both are correct. Neither comes at the beginning. Either comes at the end.

Practice 2: negative agreement

Complete the replies with neither + the correct auxiliary + subject.

1. A: I haven’t done my homework.
   B: Neither _____ I.

2. A: Chloe isn’t at home.
   B: Neither _____ her parents.

3. A: I didn’t understand the question.
   B: Neither _____ I.

4. A: They won’t be late.
   B: Neither _____ we.

Practice 2: answers

1. Neither have I.

2. Neither are her parents.

3. Neither did I.

4. Neither will we.

After neither, use normal question word order: auxiliary first, then subject.

So / neither and too / either

You can agree in two common ways.

Positive

I like documentaries.
So do I.
I do too.

Negative

I don’t like crowds.
Neither do I.
I don’t either.

So / neither use inversion. Too / either keep normal sentence order.

Practice 3: choose the natural reply

Circle A or B. Then say the full answer aloud.

1. A: I’m exhausted. B: A) So am I B) So I am

2. A: I can’t dance. B: A) Neither can I B) Neither can’t I

3. A: We enjoyed the concert. B: A) So did we B) So we did

4. A: I don’t have a car. B: A) I don’t too B) I don’t either

5. A: I’ve met your cousin. B: A) So have I B) So I have

Common mistakes

Repair the response. What is wrong with it?

I like tea. So like I.	→	**So do I.**
I don’t ski. Neither don’t I.	→	**Neither do I.**
I am busy. So I am.	→	**So am I.**
I can’t sing. I can’t too.	→	**I can’t either.**

Ask yourself: positive or negative? Which auxiliary? Which word order?

Practice 4: transform the reply

Write two possible answers for each situation.

1. A: I’m not interested in football.

Response 1: _____ Response 2: _____

2. A: I will call you later.

Response 1: _____ Response 2: _____

3. A: I didn’t sleep well last night.

Response 1: _____ Response 2: _____

4. A: I have visited Rome.

Response 1: _____ Response 2: _____

Mixed review

Complete the mini-dialogues. Use so, neither, too or either.

1. A: I’m nervous about the exam. B: _____ .

2. A: I didn’t bring my laptop. B: I didn’t bring mine _____.

3. A: My parents live near the sea. B: _____ do mine.

4. A: I can’t remember his name. B: _____ .

5. A: We’ve already eaten. B: _____.

6. A: I don’t want to leave yet. B: _____ .

Mixed review: answers

1. 1. So am I.
2. 2. either
3. 3. So do mine.
4. 4. Neither can I.
5. 5. too
6. 6. Neither do I.

Before you speak: identify the verb, match the auxiliary, then choose so / neither or too / either.

Exit ticket

Write replies that are true for you. Then compare with a partner.

I enjoy studying English.	So do I. / I do too.
I can use so / neither now.	So can I. / I can too.
I don’t find grammar easy.	Neither do I. / I don’t either.
I have learnt something useful today.	So have I. / I have too.

Challenge: make one new sentence with a different auxiliary verb.