

Fowler's

Dictionary of Modern English Usage

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H. W. Fowler

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E

-e-. See MUTE E.

e- is a very modern prefix, derived from the word *electronic*, and first recorded in the *OED* from 1990 in its current application (but used in 1988 in the word *e-fit*, a composite electronic image). It is applied especially to nouns denoting the use of electronic data transfer in cyberspace, especially over the Internet (often to distinguish them from their non-electronic counterparts), and to products and services similarly available. Many of the words formed with this prefix are now firmly established, such as: *e-books*, *e-business*, *e-commerce*, *e-learning*, *e-reader*, *e-tailer* (someone who retails goods on the Internet), *e-ticket* (an authorization to travel by train or air replacing the conventional printed ticket), and *e-voting* (a system of recording a vote in an election on the Internet or by other electronic means instead of marking a ballot paper). For the moment, it is usual to write these words with hyphens, but no doubt over time some of them will lose it, just as the now universal term *email* has.

each.

- 1 Singular or plural verb.
- 2 *each other*.
- 3 *between each*.
- 4 *each other's*.
- 5 *each's*.

1 *Singular or plural verb*. 'Each is treated as singular (a) when it stands by itself as a pronoun subject: *There are only two ties left: each has a thistle pattern*; (b) when it comes before a singular noun (e.g. *each house*): *Each group is responsible for its own quality control*—A. Francis, 1986; (c) when it is followed by *of* and a plural noun (e.g. *each of the houses*): *each of the three parties has a right to a confidential briefing* (not *have*). *Each* is wrongly used with a plural verb in the following sentence: *'I only found out by sheer accident that you, Alan Lloyd and Milly Preston are all*

trustees, and each have a vote—Jeffrey Archer, 1979 (read *each has* or *all of you have*).

The verb and its complements are in the plural (a) when *each* immediately follows a plural pronoun subject (e.g. *we, you, they each*): *We each have our own priorities* (not *has* and not *our own priority*); (b) when *each* is not the subject, but is in apposition with a plural noun or pronoun as subject: *the three parties each have a right to a confidential briefing*; *lettuces cost 75 pence each*.

2 *each other*. A belief that *each other* properly refers to two people and *one another* to more than two is reflected in many contexts: *But Mrs Bentley and Kitty were delighted with each other*—A. Brookner, 1982; *I mean, Stanley and Jessica and I could cry about it. We had one another*—Susan Hill. But the belief was dismissed even by Fowler (1926); historical usage shows that there is no basis for such a restriction; and it is in any case widely ignored, as can be seen from the following departures from the 'rule': (*each other* used to refer to more than two) *Everybody knew each other or about each other*—A. Brookner, 1983; *I sit in one of the smaller theatres at the Young Vic and watch Brecht's characters driving each other into action through the coherence and confidence of their belief and argument*—Observer, 2007; (*one another* used to refer to two) *He and Gussy were evidently very fond of one another*—A. N. Wilson, 1978; *There is no such thing as complete harmony between two people, however much they profess to love one another*—A. Brookner, 1984; *We saw one another at weekends but this put a strain on the relationship*—Sun, 2007.

3 *between each*. See BETWEEN 3.

4 *each other's*. It is worth noting that the possessive of *each other* is *each other's*, not *each others'*, e.g. *they shared each other's possessions*.

5 *each*
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