

Subject-Verb Agreement



What is SVA

- “Subject verb agreement simply means the subject and verb must agree in number.
- This means both need to be singular or both need to be plural.

Example:

- She writes every day.
- They write every day.

THUMB RULE

➤ **Singular subjects must have singular verbs.**

Eg: Dog barks, Geetha cooks, Bird flies, Ram has,
She is, He was etc...

➤ **Plural subjects take plural verbs.**

Eg: Dogs bark, Geetha & Ramya cook, Birds fly, Ram & Ravi have, They are,
They were

Subjects & Verbs

Singular Subjects:

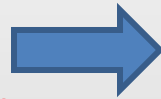
Dog, Bird, Ram, Geetha, Singer
etc....

Plural Subjects:

Dogs, Birds, Ram & Ravi, Geetha
& Ramya, Singers

Singular Helping Verbs:

is, was, has...



Singular Main Verbs:

Barks, Flies, Plays, Cooks,
Sings etc...

Plural Main Verbs:

Bark, Fly, Play, Cook, Sing etc...

Plural Helping Verbs:

are, were, have....



Rule:1

- If two subjects, one single and one *plural*, are connected by ***EITHER/OR*** or ***NEITHER/NOR***, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.

Examples:

- Neither the players nor the coach is joining.
- Either the conductor or the singers are attending the concert.

Rule:2

➤ Two singular subjects joined by ***EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR*** take a singular verb.

Examples:

- Either Mommy or Daddy is coming with me at the outbound.
- Neither Hari nor Gopal is waiting for you.

Rule:3

➤ *If a sentence begins with HERE or THERE, the verb agrees with the subject which follows it.*

Examples:

- Here are the ways on how to preserve meat.
- There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor.

Rule:4

➤ The pronoun “YOU” *always takes a plural verb.*

Examples:

- You were invited to come.
- You are asked to clean the room.
- You sing so well.

Rule:5

➤ When a singular subject followed by *intervening words or phrases such as*

- *With,*
- *As well as,*
- *In addition to,*
- *Accompanied by,*
- *Together with,*
- *Along with,*
- *No less than etc...*

takes a singular verb.

Examples:

- Daddy, **as well as** my brothers, is enjoying the party.
- John, **along with** his friends, is going on a holiday.
- Abraham **together with** George & Mary, is attending the seminar.

Rule:6

➤ Singular subjects joined by **AND** *require a plural verb except when they mean one thing.*

Examples:

- Larry **and** Mercy are reading novels.
- My teacher **and** friend is here. (Exception)
- Bread **and** jam is my favorite breakfast.

Rule:7

➤ If a singular subject is followed by *a phrase containing a plural noun*, the verb is singular.

Examples:

- One of the boys **is** yelling so loud.
- Any of those ideas **is** good to follow in this situation.

Rule:8

➤ **The indefinite pronouns Several, Few, Both, Many, Others are always plural.**

Examples:

- Both **were** asking to be freed.
- Several **are** seeking justice.

Rule:9

➤ The indefinite pronouns **Some, Most, All, None** *are singular or plural according to the meaning of the sentence.*

Examples:

- Some of the girls **were** absent.
- Some of the ice cream **is** left.
- Most of the ideas **are** great.
- Most of the information **is** important.

Rule:10

➤ For all the following indefinite pronouns as subjects, the verb is singular

**Everyone, Each, No one, Another, Anybody, Nobody, Every,
Nothing, Everything, Anyone, Either, Neither Every one,
Somebody, Someone....**

Example:

- Every man and woman in this hall **is** a member.
- Someone **is** trying to step out of the room.

Rule:11

➤ Expressions of time, money, weight *and distance* **are singular even if the form is plural.**

Examples:

- Two years **is** a long time to wait.
- One million dollars **was** given back to the owner.

Rule:12

➤ When the amount of money refers to *separate units*, the verb is plural.

Examples:

- Five 25-rupee coins **were** found.
- Ten 500 rupee notes **are** missing from my wallet.

Rule:13

➤ The following words are always *Plural*:

PANTS, TROUSERS, PLIERS, SCISSORS, SHEARS, TONGS.

**However, if the word PAIR is used, the verb is singular*

Examples:

- The pants **are** torn into two.
- The **pair** of scissors **was** placed on the table.

Rule:14

➤ **Certain nouns, though plural *in form*, are singular *in meaning* and therefore take singular verbs.**

Examples:

- **Mathematics** is my favorite subject.
- The latest **news** is alarming to the public.

Rule:15

- When the word is preceded by **A**, it takes a plural verb
- When it is preceded by **THE**, it takes a singular verb.

Examples:

- **A** number of students **are** waiting outside.
- **The** number of students outside **is** not recorded yet.

Rule:16

➤ When fractions, parts, proportions, percentages etc.. are used, the *verb agrees with the “object of the phrase”*.

Examples:

- One half of the **cake** was consumed.
- One fourth of the **employees** were attending the seminar.
- 50% of the **work** is completed

Rule:17

- *These nouns may be singular or plural in meaning:
“ATHLETICS, GENETICS, POLITICS, GYMNASTICS, STATISTICS”.*
- *When the noun refers to an organized activity, it is singular; when the noun refers to the activities of individuals within a group, or to varied activities, it is plural.*

Examples:

- **Gymnastics** **is** very popular among girls.
- The gymnastics shown in the field today **were** outstanding.

Rule:18

➤ The name of a country *is always regarded as singular.*

Examples:

- The Bahamas **has** beautiful beaches.
- Philippines **is** a wondrous place.

Rule:19

➤ **Adjectives when used as Nouns considered plural.**

Examples:

- The **poor** are to be helped.
- The **efficient** are what this country needs.

Rule:20

➤ *Collective nouns may be singular or plural depending on whether the individual members are acting individually or collectively.*

Eg: COMPANY, GROUP, COMMITTEE, CROWD, JURY, FLOCK, TEAM.

Examples:

- The committee **is** against the plan. (acting collectively-singular)
- The committee **are** of different opinion. (acting individually- plural)

Rule:21

➤ In the use of mathematical *expressions*, the *following are accepted*.

Examples:

- Seven plus three is ten.
- Seven and three are ten.
- Five times two are ten.
- Five minus two is three.

Rule:22

- Titles of books, plays, articles, *movies, etc. are regarded as singular even though words in the title may be plural.*

Examples:

- “Titanic” **is** one of the best films made by 20th Century Fox.
- “Great Expectations” **is** a must- read novel.

Rule:23

- Names of organizations take a *singular verb when the whole organization is referred to*, and a *plural verb when the members are referred to*.

Examples:

- Lopez and Sons **is** a successful organization.
- Lopez and Sons **are** holding a two- day annual meeting.

Rule:24

➤ If a sentence begins with the expletive *IT*, the verb is always singular even if the subject that follows the verb is plural.

Examples:

- It is the schools which must assume the responsibility.
- It is us who must take care of the environment.

Thank You

Best ahead!!