

**Grammar**

# **Subject-Verb Agreement**

**eBook**

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## Chapter 1: Subject-Verb Agreement

The **subject** can be defined as part of the sentence; it is what or who sentence is all about.

A **Verb** is a part of speech that expresses

- 1) Action
- 2) state of being

Example: He is eating. The verb here is eating.

- I am a singer. ("Am" connects the subject "I" with the noun "Singer". "Am" is a verb here. )

Example 2: Nikhil wrote a script.

"*Nikhil*" is the subject, the doer or performer.

"*Wrote*" refers to the action performed. So "wrote" is a verb.

**The subject-verb agreement means** Verbs must agree with Subject in number and Vice versa. While using a singular noun, we must use a **verb** that matches singular nouns. While using a plural noun, we must use a **verb** that matches plural nouns.

## Chapter 2: Rules of Subject-Verb agreement

**Rule 1:** If the subject is singular the corresponding verb will also be singular. Same holds true for a plural subject.

Example:

- A Student is singing. *Here subject (student) is singular that is why we have used helping verb "is."*
- Students are singing. *Here subject(student) is Plural that is why we have used helping verb "are".*

**Rule 2:** Agreement is not affected by words that come between the subject and verb.

Example:

- The Student, who has been punished, *is* usually very good. *Here agreement is not affected by words between subject and verb.*

**Rule 3:** Agreement is not affected by Prepositional phrases that come between the subject and verb.

Example:

- The ways of God are great.
- *The cat on the box is Tom.*
- *The cat behind the boxes is Tom.*
- *The tables on the next page indicate growth.*

**Rule4:** Singular form of the verb is used when two subjects referring to the same thing are separated by "and."

Example: Bread and butter *is* my favourite breakfast.

- Law and order of the city is managed by the Municipal Corporation.

**Rule 5:** In case of indefinite pronouns (*each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anyone, anybody, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one*) singular form of the verb is used.

Example:

- Either way is fine.
- Nothing seems right around this place anymore.
- Everybody is going to school.
- Everybody is doing his or her work.

**Rule 6:** If two singular subjects are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," and "not only/but also" singular form of the verb is used.

Example:

- Arjun or Varun is to blame for the mistake.
- Nikhil or Neetu is going to take the lecture.

**Rule 7:** for units of measurement or time we use the singular form of the verb.

Example:

- 2 quarts of oil *was* required to get the Bike running.

**Rule 8:** If we have a singular subject and a plural subject joined by words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," and "not only/but also" "rather than", we use a form of a verb according to the nearest subject.

Example:

- Either the Monkeys or the gorilla *has* escaped from the zoo.
- Neither the Gorilla nor the monkeys *have* escaped from the zoo.

**Rule 9:** We treat Titles of books, movies, novels, etc. as singular and use a singular verb with them.

Example:

- Inception is my favourite film.
- Kite Runner Is my favourite book.

**Rule 10:** There are some pronouns like "few," "many," "several," "both," "all," and "some" that always take the plural form of the verb.

Example:

- Many were injured during the accident.
- Few *were* left alive after the earthquake.
- All were in agreement.

**Rule 11:** Singular verb form is used in case of **Collective** nouns like "pride", "Jury," "class," and "crowd,".

Example:

- Juri is the courtroom.
- The class is the bright one.

**Rule 12:** If we have a singular subject and a plural subject joined by words. We use the form of the verb according to nearest subject" as well as", "including with", "together with", "along with", "accompanied by ", "in addition to", "besides", "like", "and not" we use form of verb according to First subject.

Example:

- Teachers, as well as the principal, are celebrating Holi.
- Principal, as well as teachers, are celebrating the Holi.

**Rule 13:** Plural verb form is required in case when we have two subjects joined by "and".

Example: Nikhil and Tushar *are* planning to go out.