

The background is a deep blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white dots. On the left side, there are several concentric circles and a large circular scale with degree markings from 140 to 260. Some circles have arrows indicating a clockwise direction. The text 'CHAPTER 18' and 'CONCORD' is positioned on the right side in a white, sans-serif font.

CHAPTER 18

CONCORD

WHAT IS CONCORD?

- Generally, *concord* is the agreement between the subject and the verb in a sentence.
- But it can also be the agreement between –
 - * A subject and its complement.
 - * A subject and the object
 - * A subject and its pronoun.

- Now let us look into some commonly seen concord-related mistakes and their rectifications.

1. Every member of that crowd of 2000 people were dissatisfied with the performance on the stage.

- In the sentence the subject is 'every member' and is singular. So a singular verb should naturally follow it. The usage of 'were' is an error of proximity (nearness) as we misinterpreted '2000 people' as the subject. The correct usage should be-
- Every member of that crowd of 2000 people was dissatisfied with the performance on the stage.

2. The audience was restive and they greeted the singer with boos and catcalls.

- What we find here is an instance of the 'subject and pronoun disagreement'. The given sentence can be reconstructed in two ways depending upon whether you want the subject to be singular or plural.
- Here the subject is obviously 'the audience', a collective noun that can be singular or plural.
- If we consider it singular, the right usage could be-
- The audience was restive and it greeted.....
- If we look at it as a plural noun, the correct construction is-
- The audience were restive and they greeted.....

3. The auditorium as well as its premises were crowded with people.

- Here the subject 'the auditorium' is singular and words joined to the subject by adding 'as well as', 'together with' 'along with' etc will not affect the number. So the appropriate construction is-
- The auditorium as well as its premises was crowded with people.

4. Neither the stage attendants nor the manager were able to control the crowd.

- With 'neither.....nor' the proximity principle works!
- So the verb agrees with the noun near it. Thus we get-
- Neither the stage attendants nor the manager was able to control the crowd.



singular noun

5. It seemed that either the poor arrangements or the lack of space were responsible for this situation.

- The rule for 'neither ...nor' works here too; the verb agrees to the nearest noun. Thus the two possible sentences are-
- It seemed that either the poor arrangements or the lack of space was..... OR
- It seemed that the lack of space or the poor arrangements were.....

6. More than one attempt were made to rush on to the stage.


- 'More than one attempt' is treated as singular. Hence-
- More than one attempt was made to rush on to the stage.

7. The crowd grew so muddle-headed that good and bad music alike was greeted with shouts.

- Music is uncountable. But in this particular sentence 'good and bad music' probably refers to two different kinds of music and therefore a plural verb seems more appropriate.
- The crowd grew so muddle-headed that good and bad music alike were greeted with shouts.

8. It is I who is to blame for bringing in these fools, lamented the manager.

- When there is a relative pronoun in a sentence, the verb that follows it should agree to the antecedent, which in this case is 'I'.

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- It is I who am to blame for bringing in these fools, lamented the manager.

9. No, every man, woman and child who came here are to blame.

- When you find 'every' or 'each' before a noun or a group of nouns, consider it singular and follow up with a singular verb.
- No, every man, woman and child who came here is to blame.

10. In the meanwhile, Mr. John, the manger's son and the deputy manager of the company was seen talking to the troublemakers.

- If the manager's son and the deputy manager refer to the same person, 'was' in the given sentence is just about right.
- But if they are two different persons, use 'were' in the place of 'was'
- Mr. John, the manager's son and the deputy manager were seen.....

11. Here comes the C.I. and a few policemen.

- The subject is 'C.I. and a few policemen' which is plural. So a plural verb should follow.
- Here come the C.I. and a few policemen.