



# IIT Madras

## BSc Degree

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# Agreement in English Sentences (Subject and Verb in Sentences)

Rajesh Kumar

# Sentence and Complex Sentence

- Sentence = [Subject + Predicate]
- Predicate = [Verb + Object(s) [adjuncts/adverbs]]
- Complex Sentence:
- Subject + Predicate [embedded sentence as an object]

# Agreement - 1

- Raju likes pizza.
  - I go to the office on time.
  - You go to the market every week.
  - She leaves her office late in the evening.
- 
- We are happy.
  - The school is closed.
- 
- *Am* is a special case tense marker.

# No change in forms of nouns in both singular and plural

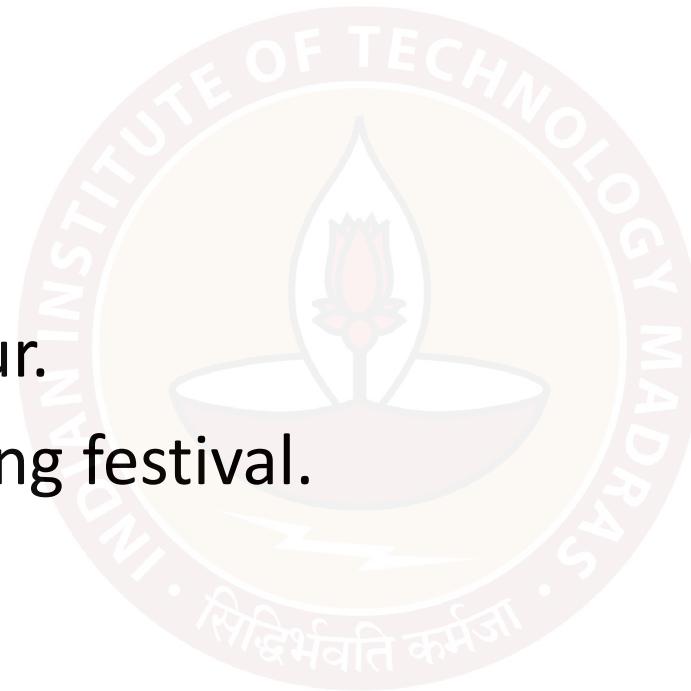
- Sheep      Deer
- The sheep **is** harmless creature.
- The sheep **are** expensive for some farmers.
- Deer **is** not available everywhere.
- Deer **are** free on IIT Madras campus.

# No plural forms

- Mathematics is tough to follow.
- Mathematics gives nightmare to some people.
  
- Politics is easy for everyone to understand.
- Politics requires careful speech.

# No singular forms ...

- Glasses, Jeans, Police
- My glasses are blue.
- Their jeans leave colour.
- Police are vigilant during festival.



# Indefinites as singular

- Everyone/Everybody, Someone/somebody, No one/Nobody,
  - Everything, Something, Nothing
- 
- Everyone comes to the football match.
  - Someone is speaking.
  - Nobody comes after 5 pm.
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- Everything is apparent.
  - Something is missing.
  - Nothing gets attention.

# Quantity

- Time (4 hours, 5 minutes, 5 years)
- Five years is not long time in history.
- Sometimes 5 minutes appears too long.
- Four hours is fine.

# Agreement with plural complements

- What distracts me are the children in the park.
- Most annoying thing last week were buses on the road.
- The most beautiful thing that I saw last week was the painting in the museum.
- There are several monkeys on the tree.

# Closest noun

- Either ... or...
- Neither ... nor ...
- Either my father or my siblings are with me at home.
- Either my siblings or my father is with me at home.
- Neither my father nor my siblings are with me at home.
- Neither my siblings nor my father is with me at home.
- **English tends to put plurals at the last.**

# Things to notice ...

- Feature on the subject must show up on the verb.
- Verbs host agreement features for matching.
- Features on the subject when not obvious becomes a cognitive exercise.