



IIT Madras

BSc Degree

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PRACTISE SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT IN ENGLISH

- KARTHIKA SATHYANATHAN

1. Annie **and** her brothers **are** at school. (**is/are**)

Reason: When the subject of a sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by **and**, use a plural verb.

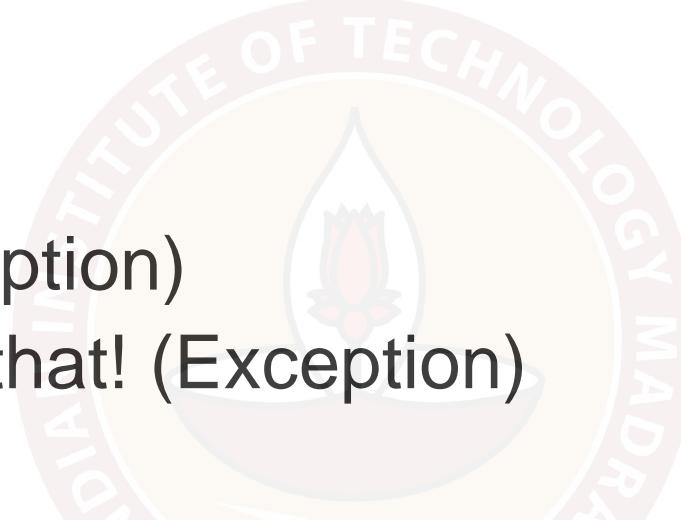
2. The dog **or** the cat **is** outside. (**is/are**)

Reason: When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by **or** or **nor**, use a singular verb.

3. The dog or the cats **are** outside. (is/are)
4. Either my shoes or your coat **is** always on the floor. (is/are)

Reason: When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by **or** or **nor**, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is nearer the verb.

5. George and Tara **don't** want to see that movie.
6. Vaiga **doesn't** know the answer.
7. He **doesn't** know.
8. They **don't** know.
9. I **don't** know. (Exception)
10. You **don't** tell me that! (Exception)



Reason: **Doesn't** is a contraction of **does not** and should be used only with a singular subject. **Don't** is a contraction of **do not** and should be used only with a plural subject. The exception to this rule appears in the case of the first person and second person pronouns **I** and **you**. With these pronouns, the contraction **don't** should be used.

11. **One** of the boxes **is** open
12. **The people** who listen to that music **are** few.
13. **The team captain**, as well as his players, **is** anxious.
14. **The book**, including all the chapters in the first section, **is** boring.
15. **The woman** with all the dogs **walks** down my street.

Reason: Do not be misled by a phrase that comes between the subject and the verb. The verb agrees with the subject, not with a noun or pronoun in the phrase.

16. Each of these donuts **is yummy.**

17. Everybody knows Mr. Ram.

18. Either **is correct.**

Reason: The words each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one are singular and require a singular verb.

19. The **news** is on at six.

Reason: Nouns such as civics, mathematics, dollars, measles, and news require singular verbs.

The word dollars is a special case. When talking about an amount of money, it requires a singular verb, but when referring to the dollars themselves, a plural verb is required.

Five dollars is a lot of money.

Dollars are often used instead of rubles in Russia.

20. These scissors are dull.

21. Those trousers are made of wool.

Reason: Nouns such as scissors, tweezers, trousers, and shears require plural verbs. (There are two parts to these things.)

22.The team runs during practice.

23.The committee decides how to proceed.

24. The family has a long history.

25. That class is very noisy.

Reason: Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but that are considered singular and take a singular verb, such as group, team, committee, class, and family.