

# SVA

1. Two subjects joined by “and” takes a plural verb.

E.g.: The manuscript and the proof were sent to the author.

2. Two subjects joined by anything other than and, takes a singular verb if the main subject is singular and plural verb if the main subject is plural.

E.g.: The manuscript, as well as the proofs, was sent to the author.

3. Two subjects separated by or takes the verb that agrees with the subject closest to the verb. The same rule applies for either....or, neither....nor and not only....but also.

E.g.: The parents or the teachers are responsible for the problem.  
The parents along with the teacher are ....

4. The following pronouns take a singular verb: each, every, one, either, neither, anybody, anyone, anything, everyone, everybody, everything, someone, somebody, something, no one, nobody, nothing.

E.g.: Each of the projects is done.

Everyone these days is dishonest.

5. “The number” is singular and “a number” is plural.

E.g.: The number that responded was surprising.

A number of people were at the craft fair.

The number of people who came to the fair was astounding.

6. The Pronouns also have to agree with the antecedent.

E.g. Even an animal has its own territory. (Singular)

Even animals have their own territory. (Plural)

Each of the boys has submitted his report.

all the boys has / have submitted their report.

7. A unit of measurement always has a singular verb.

E.g. 500 rupees is too expensive.

8. Collective nouns define a group that is thought of as a unit or functions as a unit. Collective nouns, when singular, require a singular verb; when collective noun is made plural (team to teams), the noun requires a plural verb. Some commonly used collective nouns include audience, class, clergy, community, council, couple, crowd, faculty, family, government, group, jury, league, majority, membership, orchestra (Number) percent, public, staff, team, variety.

When the group is regarded as a unit, the singular verb is appropriate.

E.g.: The team is practicing. The members of the team are ...

The class is noisy.

The constellation is far away.

When the individual members of the pair or group are emphasized, rather than the group as a whole, the plural verb is correct.

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E.g.: The members of the team are practicing.

The students in the class are noisy.

The stars in the constellation are far away.