**RULES FOR SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT**

1. Singular subjects take singular verbs and plural subjects take plural verbs.

***(They run fast) (He runs fast)***

1. Two or more singular subjects joined by and take a plural verb.

***(Fog, smoke and heavy rain cancel scheduled flight)***

1. If there is one idea or refers to the same person/thing then the verb is singular.

***(Slow & steady wins the race)*** ***(The novelist and poet is dead)*** ***(The horse & carriage is at the door)***

1. Words connected to a singular subject by ‘with’, together with, along with, in addition to, as well as etc do not affect the number of the verb present in a sentence.

***(The student along with the guardian is waiting outside the director’s room)***

***(The manager along with his team has arrived)***

***(Justice, as well as mercy, allows it)***

1. Singular subjects separated by ‘or’ ‘nor’ ‘neither’ ‘nor’ ‘either’ ‘or’ take a singular verb.

***(Either the newspaper or the television is a good source of news)***

(***Neither the driver nor the cleaner feels sleepy)***

1. Plural subjects separated by ‘or’ ‘nor’ ‘neither’ ‘either’ take a plural verb.

(***Neither the teachers nor the parents are to blame)***

1. When a plural noun denoting distance, weight, height or amount of money is illustrated as a single unit, then it takes a singular verb.

(Ten kms is a long walk)

(1000 Rupees is a lot of money)

1. Words in plural form and singular in meaning take a singular verb.

(***The news is interesting)***

***(Linguistics is the study of language)***

***(The wages is meagre in this firm)***

1. Two nouns, qualified by ‘each’ ‘every’ or even though connected by ‘and’ require a singular verb.

(***Each boy and girl was given a packet of sweets)***

***(Each man and woman was allowed to go to the market)***

1. When ‘number’ is preceded by ‘the’, it takes a singular verb and when by ‘a’, it takes a plural verb.

(***A number of students are missing from the lecture today)***

***(The number of crimes is increasing in India)***

1. ‘A pair of’ when applied to things where two components are thought as one (scissors, trousers, gloves, shoes) takes a singular verb.

(***A pair of trousers is hanging on the wall)***

***(A pair of scissors is kept on the dining table)***

Note: If we omit a pair of and use only plural words then, it will always take a plural verb.

***(The scissors are very blunt)***

***(His shoes are very expensive)***

1. When a singular subject and plural subject are joined by ‘or’ ‘nor’ ‘neither’ ‘either’ the verb should be placed according to the nearest subject.

**(*Neither Shyam nor his brothers were in school)***

1. Some nouns appear plural but treated as singular. They take a singular verb.

**(*Physics is my favorite subject)***

***(No news is good news)***

1. Much, little, less, lot (adjective of quantity) used as a subject, it takes a singular verb.

***(Much of the work is done)***

1. If only neither/either, it will take a singular verb, even if the subject is in plural form.

(***Neither of the students is missing)***