

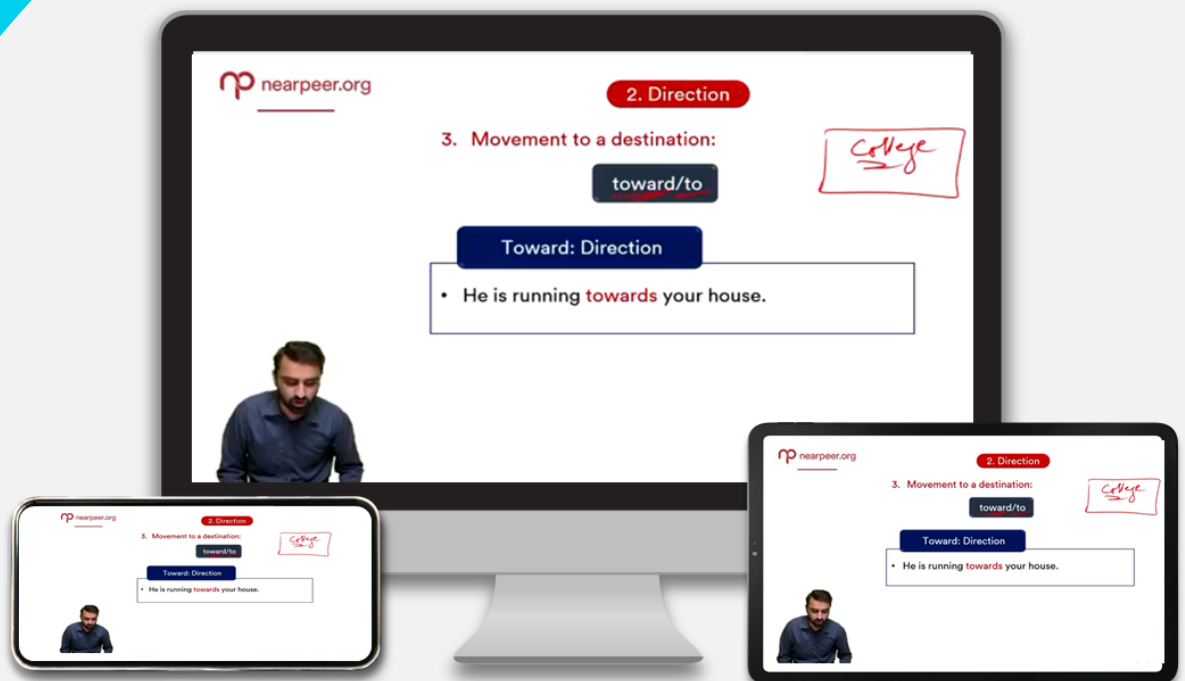
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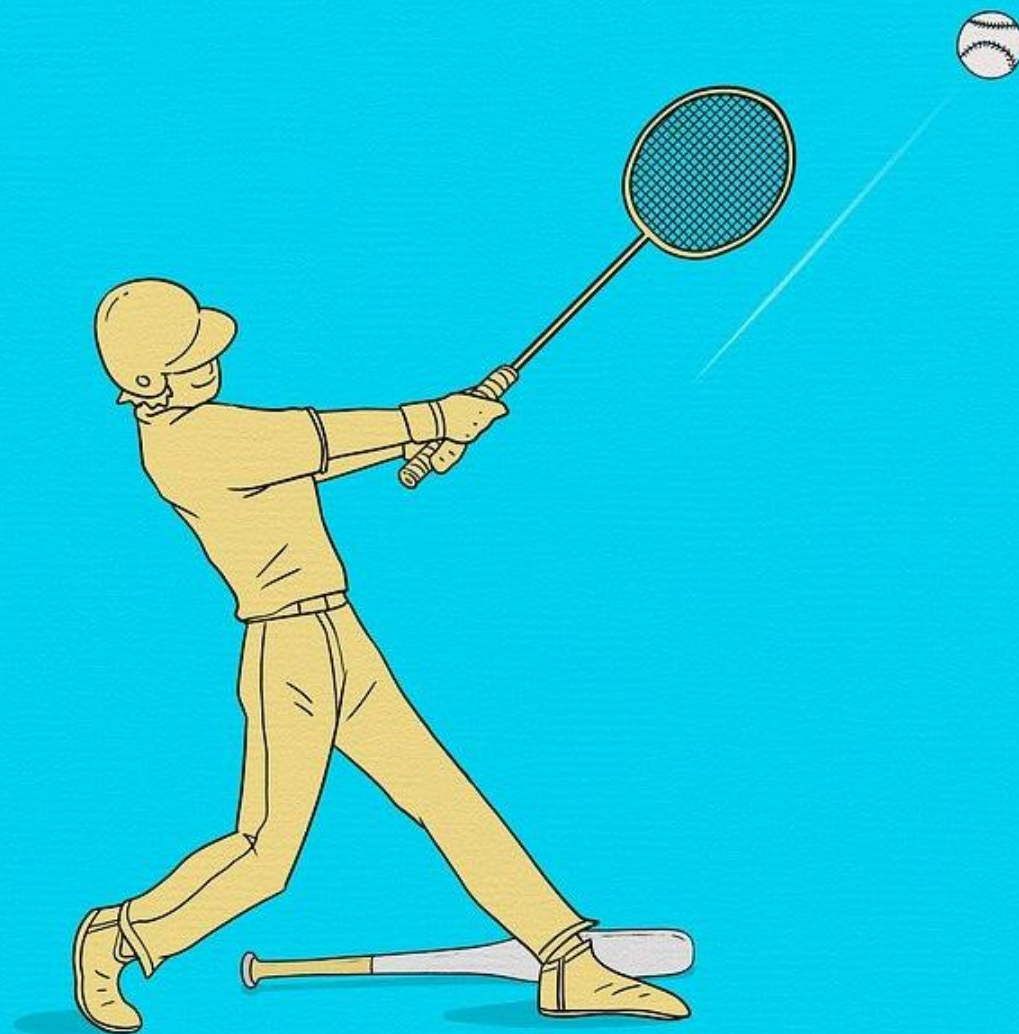
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Chapter 02

Concord Mistakes



Concord Mistakes

What Are Concord Mistakes?

Concord mistakes are agreement mistakes among the elements of a sentence. (Subject, Verb, Noun, Pronoun, quantifiers etc.)

Types of Concord Mistakes

Following are the types of concord or agreement mistakes:

- I. Subject Verb Agreement
- II. Noun Pronoun Agreement
- III. Noun Quantifier Agreement

Subject Verb Agreement

Subject:

The doer or performer an action in a sentence is called a subject.

The subject can be either a noun or pronoun. So, it is very easy to find out a subject in a sentence. Following interrogative pronouns can lead us to the subject of the sentence:

- Who
- What

Example:

Aliyar helped his tribe to fight against the invaders.



Subject

Eating apples can help you stay active.



Subject

Types of Subjects:

There are three types of subjects:

- I. Simple Subject
- II. Compound Subject
- III. Complete/Complex subject

1. Simple Subject:

A noun (single word) functioning as a singular or plural subject is called a simple subject.

- **Ali** is waiting for us in the market.
- The **boys** are ready for the match.

2. Compound Subject:

Two or more than two nouns/pronouns joined by “and”, “or”, “nor” are called compound subjects.

- **Jameel and Kashif** are working on this project.
- **Neither Zoya nor Alina** is happy with this project.

3. Complete/Complex Subject:

Complete subject can be of following categories:

- I. Noun Phrase as A Subject
 - **Ali as well as his friends** is outside waiting for the bus.
- II. Noun Clause as A Subject
 - **What we saw** was almost impossible to describe in words.
- III. Subject Along with A Prepositional Phrase
 - **All the boys in the field** are anxious for today’s game.
- IV. Subject Along with A Relative Clause
 - **All the book which were recommended by the professor** has been bought.

Rule # 1: (Number Rule)

Single subject always agrees with the single verb, and plural subject agrees with plural verb.

Noun with an “s” or “es” becomes plural. Verb with an “s” or “es” becomes singular.

Singular Noun	Singular Verb
A boy	Plays cricket.
A girl	Eats food.
A chair	Is made
A school	Educates the young minds.

Plural Noun	Plural Verb
Boys	Play cricket.
Girls	Eat food.
Chairs	Are made.
Schools	Educate the young minds.

Compound Subject Rules

The word “compound” means “made up of two or more parts.” Two or more words can be compounded or linked by joining them with any of three words:

And, or, and nor

Examples:

- Apples and oranges

Rule # 2 (And):

When a subject has two or more parts joined by “and”, treat the subject as plural and use plural verb.

- Ali and Ahmad **have** made a new design for the office.

Exception:

However, if two joined parts refer to a single person, thing or idea, use a single verb.

- **Bread and butter** is not easy to earn in this era of inflation.

Rule # 3 (Articles and Possessive Adjectives):

When the article “A, An or The” or possessive adjective (my, your, his, her or their) is used before only one noun, one person/thing is intended and hence the verb must be singular.

- **The black and white TV** is not watched these days. (Singular verb)
- **The doctor and house owner** has just arrived. (Singular verb)
- **My uncle and doctor** visits me weekly. (Singular verb)

Exception:

When the article “A, An or The” or possessive adjective (my, your, his, her or their) is used before both the nouns, two different persons/things are intended and hence the verb must be plural.

- **The doctor and the house owner** have just arrived. (Plural verb)
- **My uncle and my doctor** visit me weekly. (Plural verb)

Rule # 4 (subject 1 – verb agreement):

When two or more subjects are joined by “as well as, besides, with, in addition to, together with, along with, but, except etc.” the verb is used according to the first subject.

- **The principal** as well as all the faculty members is invited to the party. (As “principal” is a singular noun we shall use singular verb).

Rule # 5 (Subject 2 – verb agreement):

When subjects are joined by “neither---nor, either-----or” and are of different persons, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.

- Neither books nor **bag** **is** there in the room.
- Either you or **I** **am** going out today.

Rule # 6 (Phrase and Clause between subject and verb):

If there is an explanatory or prepositional phrase and clause following the subject, the number of the subjects does not change.

- **The teachers** in the staffroom **are** waiting for the bell to ring.
- **The books** which were gifted by Mr. Prime Minister **are** still there in my library.

Rule # 7 (One of & only one of)

- One of + Plural Noun + Single Verb.
 - **One of the boys** **is** waiting outside.
- One of + Plural Noun + Who + Plural Verb.
 - **Aliya is one of the girls** who **respect** and obey their parents.
- The only one of + Plural Noun + Who + Singular Verb.
 - **Tahir is the only one of the boys** who **have** registered themselves for the new course.

Rule # 8 (Gerund, Infinitive, Phrase and Clause as a subject):

When Gerund, infinitive, Phrase and clause function as a subject, use single verb.

- **Teaching** **is** a noble profession. (Gerund)
- **To paint** the walls **is** his hobby. (Infinitive)
- Strolling on the track along the lake **is** a refreshing act. (Phrase)
- **What he says** **is** a white lie. (Clause)

Rule # 9 (Amount, Distance, Quantity, Time or Period As A Subject):

When Amount, Distance, Quantity, Time or Period occur as a unit, use single verb.

- The **distance** between these two walls **is** twelve feet.
- **Fifty thousand dollars** **was** a handsome amount to tempt the newly couple.

Rule # 10 (Fraction, Percentage as a Subject):

When there is fraction or percentage of any noun, use verb according to the noun. If the noun is singular, use single verb. If the noun is plural, use plural verb.

- **Fifty percent of the book** **has** been read by me.
- **Half of the boys** **are** ready to go to Murree on College Tour.

Rule # 11 (Number of)

- I. The number of + Plural Noun + single verb
 - **The number of stars** in the universe is probably equal to the number of sand grains on all the sea-shores of the world.
- II. A number of + plural noun + plural verb
 - **A number of** girls are ready to play a cricket match.

Rule # 12 (Majority and minority)

- I. When “Majority” and “minority” occur as a subject, use single verb.
 - The **majority** is with us.
- II. When “Majority of + noun” or “minority of + noun” occur as a subject use verb according to the noun.
 - **The majority of the actors** are appearing in the newly made movie.

Rule # 13 (Indefinite Pronouns)

I. Singular Indefinite Pronouns

Singular indefinite pronouns include compounds of –body, thing, and –one” along with the words “one, another, each, either, neither and much.”

A singular verb is used with these pronouns.

E ach	Somebody	Something	Someone
E very	Everybody	Everything	Everyone
E ither	Any body	Anything	Anyone
N either	Nobody	Nothing	No one
O ne			

- **Each** of the boys is going to bring a single dish in the party.

II. Plural Indefinite Pronouns

A plural verb is used with the pronouns “few, many, both, several”.

- **Many** boys are doing part time job to support their parents.

III. Skeptical Indefinite Pronouns (Indefinite Pronouns that can be either Singular or Plural)

Pronouns like most, none and some take their meaning from the word to which they refer which is often found in the phrase following the pronoun.

S	A	N	A	M
Some	All	None	Any	Most

- **Some of the students** have done their work.
- **Most of the book** is about life of a teacher.

Noun Pronoun Agreement

Noun and Pronoun agree on the following terms:

- I. Number (Singular & Plural)
 - The **boys** are going to **their** houses.
- II. Gender (Male and Female)
 - **Ali** is going to **his** house.
- III. Case (subjective, Objective, Possessive or Reflexive)
 - Kashif has painted **his** house **himself**.
- IV. Person (First, Second & Third)
 - **I** told **him** that **he** should wait for **me** there.

Noun Quantifiers Agreement

Types of Quantifiers:

- I. Numerable
 - **Many bags** have been dispatched.
- II. Measurable
 - **Much water** has been drunk by the participants.

Words Expressing Quantity

With Singular Nouns and Verbs	With Plural Nouns and Verbs
Much	Many
(a) little	(a) few
A great deal (of)	Several
A large amount (of)	A large number (of)
Less	Fewer
Another	Both

Assessment 01

1. They have always had money, but all of it have been either lost or wasted because they don't know how to save it.
A. Had
B. It
C. Have
D. Either
2. English grammar and knowing how to use grammar effectively is important for a good communicator.
A. English grammar
B. Knowing
C. How to use
D. Is important
3. Northern Ireland is an attractive place for the tourists, but few visits in a month because of terrorism.
A. Is
B. For
C. But
D. Visits
4. Part of the proposed increase in state health care spending is due to higher emergency room admissions since the number of people without health insurance have grown steadily since the mid-1990's.
A. Part of
B. Is
C. Number
D. Have
5. Each plant, factory or agricultural commune have a health centre and a first-aid station to help the people living and working in commune.
A. Each
B. Or
C. Have
D. First-aid
6.
A. "Afghani" which Al-Isbahani, a descendent of the Umayyad, was then composing in Iraq, were the masterpiece for which Al-Hakam sent the author a thousand dinars in order to secure its first copy.
B. "Afghani" which Al-Isbahani, a descendent of the Umayyad, were then composing in Iraq, was the masterpiece for which Al-Hakam sent the author a thousand dinars in order to secure their first copy.

- C. "Afghani" which Al-Isbahani, a descendent of the Umayyad, was then composing in Iraq, was the masterpiece for which Al-Hakam sent the author a thousand dinars in order to secure it's first copy.
- D. "Afghani" which Al-Isbahani, a descendent of the Umayyad, was then composing in Iraq, was the masterpiece for which Al-Hakam sent the author a thousand dinars in order to secure its first copy.

7.

- A. The restaurant's chef and owner who himself makes good fajitas and pizzas is a multi-talented culinary professional.
- B. The restaurant's chef and owner who himself make good fajitas and pizzas are a multi-talented culinary professional.
- C. The restaurant's chef and owner who himself makes goods fajitas and pizzas is a multi-talented culinary professional.
- D. The restaurant's chef and owner who himself makes good fajitas and pizzas are a multi-talented culinary professional.

8.

- A. The police that was looking for the pocket-book pilferer was present at the Big Hall to inquire about Mr.Hubert.
- B. The police that were looking into the pocket-book pilferer were present at the Big Hall to inquire about Mr.Hubert.
- C. The police that was looking for the pocket-book pilferer were present at the Big Hall to inquire about Mr.Hubert.
- D. The police that were looking for the pocket-book pilferer were present at the Big Hall to inquire about Mr.Hubert.

9.

- A. According to Norma fifty thousands dollars, the amount Mr. Stewart offered, provides them a chance to take that trip to Europe they've always talked about.
- B. According to Norma fifty thousand dollars, the amount Mr. Stewart offered, provides them a chance to take that trip to Europe they've always talked about.
- C. According to Norma fifty thousand dollars, the amount Mr. Stewart offered, provide them a chance to take that trip to Europe they've always talked about.
- D. According to Norma fifty thousand dollar, the amount Mr. Stewart offered, provides them a chance to take that trip to Europe they've always talked about.

10.

- A. As the studies shows, seventy percent of the people in American countries live below the poverty line and don't have enough to eat.
- B. As the studies show, seventy percent of the people in American countries lives below the poverty line and don't have enough to eat.
- C. As the studies show, seventy percent of the people in American countries live below the poverty line and don't have enough to eat.
- D. As the studies show, seventy percent of the people in American countries live below the poverty line and doesn't has enough to eat.

Assessment 02

1. All of these features of university life has their place and should receive the support of those students who are interested in them.
 - A. Has
 - B. Their
 - C. Those
 - D. Who are
2. Two percent of the community's annual wages comprises the fund that the commune deals with to cater the low wage peasants who are unable to maintain their families.
 - A. Comprises
 - B. Deals with
 - C. Wage
 - D. Are
3. Translating Gulistan into Latin and English for the people of different societies are the key that elevates it to the near divine level.
 - A. Into
 - B. Are
 - C. Elevates
 - D. It
4. Forty million francs were the amount that France had lost through silkworm disease before Pasteur came to rescue.
 - A. Million
 - B. Were
 - C. Has
 - D. Came
5. The exams were over, and the result was declared in March. The goodly number of students were promoted to next classes.
 - A. Were
 - B. Was
 - C. Number
 - D. Were
6.
 - A. Japan is the only one of those countries that consist of a group of islands called an archipelago; the biggest island is Honshu.
 - B. Japan is one of those countries that consists of a group of islands called an archipelago; biggest island is Honshu.
 - C. Japan is one of those countries that consist of a group of islands called an archipelago; the biggest island is Honshu.
 - D. Japan is one of those countries that consists of a group of islands called an archipelago; the biggest island is Honshu.

7.

- A. I am worried as neither of my brothers has returned from the picnic.
- B. I am worried as neither of mine brothers has returned from the picnic.
- C. I am worried as neither of my brothers have returned from the picnic.
- D. I am worried like neither of my brothers has returned from the picnic.

8.

- A. The police has not made any arrests lately.
- B. The police have not made any arrests lately.
- C. The police have not made some arrests lately.
- D. The police have not made any arrests late.

9.

- A. Several in the group doubts the existence of intelligent life on other planets; however, few accepts the existence of it on other planets.
- B. Several in the group doubt the existence of intelligent life on other planets; however, few accept the existence of it on other planets.
- C. Several in the group doubt the existence of intelligent life on other planets; however, few accepts the existence of it on other planets.
- D. Several in the group doubts the existence of intelligent life on other planets; however, few except the existence of it on other planets.

10.

- A. Studies have shown that the majority of heart-related problems listed in pharmacology is caused by a combination of poor dietary practices and lack of exercise.
- B. Studies have shown that the majority of heart-related problems listed in pharmacology are caused by a combination of poor dietary practices and lack of exercise.
- C. Studies has shown that the majority of heart-related problems listed in pharmacology are caused to a combination of poor dietary practices and lack of exercise.
- D. Studies have show that the majority of heart-related problems listed in pharmacology are caused by a combination of poor dietary practices and lack of exercise.

Assessment 03

1. Not only the nearby colleges but also the community of students from far-off areas have reached the hall to participate the debate competition organized by Nearpeer.
 - A. Colleges
 - B. Have
 - C. To participate
 - D. Organized
2. Mr. Steward's name and telephone number was printed on the card.
 - A. Steward's
 - B. And
 - C. Was
 - D. On
3. Mr. Lincoln as well as his colleagues have been robbed in a daytime; nevertheless, no one is allowed to enter the office today.
 - A. As well as
 - B. Have been
 - C. Is
 - D. Enter
4. There is administrative faults in our college system; therefore, serious efforts to better the situation are need of the hour.
 - A. Is
 - B. Our
 - C. To better
 - D. Are
5. Raja's wife and soulmate enjoy long walks on the beach at sunrise with her husband who is very rich.
 - A. Rajeev's
 - B. Enjoy
 - C. Walks
 - D. Is
6.
 - A. One-third of the teachers are sick because of over work and malnutrition.
 - B. One -third of the teachers is sick because of over work and malnutrition.
 - C. One-third of the teacher are sick because of over work and malnutrition.
 - D. One-third of the teachers are sick because over work and malnutrition.
7.
 - A. The candidates for the post of a teacher were called on Saturday for interview; they with Master degree was excited and motivated.

- B. The candidates for the post of a teacher was called on Saturday for interview; they with master degree were excited and motivated.
- C. The candidates the post of a teacher were called on Saturday for interview; they with Master degree were excited and motivated.
- D. The candidates for the post of a teacher were called on Saturday for interview; they and master degree was excited and motivated.

8.

- A. Remain of an ancient basilica dated back from the 5th century have brought to light.
- B. Remains of an ancient basilica dating back the 5th century has been brought to light.
- C. Remains of an ancient basilica dating back to the 5th century have been brought to light.
- D. Remain of an ancient basilica dating back to the 5th century has brought to light.

9.

- A. Neither consumers nor the technology is prepared for the virtual wallet.
- B. Neither consumers or the technology is prepared for the virtual wallet.
- C. Neither technology nor consumers is prepared for the virtual wallet.
- D. Neither consumers nor the technology are prepared for the virtual wallet.

10.

- A. Miss Maryam have many hobbies, but collecting match-boxes is one of her favourite hobbies.
- B. Miss Maryam has many hobbies, and collecting match-boxes are one of her favourite hobbies.
- C. Miss Maryam has many hobbies, but collecting match-boxes is one of her favourite hobbies.
- D. Miss Maryam has many hobbies, but collecting match-boxes is one of her favourite hobby.

Key

Assessment 01

1. c
2. d
3. d
4. d
5. c
6. d
7. a
8. d
9. b
10. c

Assessment 02

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. d
6. c
7. a
8. b
9. b
10. b

Assessment 03

1. b
2. c
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. a
7. c
8. c
9. a
10. c