

Writing nouns and verbs that agree with each other

Nouns, pronouns, and verbs all have singular and plural forms. The subject of a sentence and its verb must agree on whether they are each singular or plural. When you write a singular noun coupled with a singular verb, or a plural noun with a plural verb, they are in agreement.

For example, this sentence uses a subject and verb that are in agreement, because the subject *hard drive* is singular, and so is its verb *is*:

Your hard drive is in the laptop.

This sentence demonstrates a subject and verb that do not agree, because the subject *hard drive* is singular but its *are* is plural:

Your hard drive are in the laptop.

Here are the rules for subject and verb agreement:

Singular subject Use a singular verb for a singular subject.

The *httpd daemon* *is* active and enabled.

The verb must agree with the noun, regardless of a noun's adjectives or clauses. For instance, the noun *database* is singular and gets a singular verb, even though there are plural modifiers describing the subject:

A *database* of customers and sales people *is* stored on the server.

Either or Use a singular verb when giving a choice between singular subjects.

Either *IPv4* or *IPv6* *is* supported by this project.

Compound singular subject Use a plural verb for a sentence with more than one singular subjects.

The *httpd daemon* and the *rsync daemon* *are* active and enabled.

Plural subject Use a plural verb for a plural subject.

The *emails* *are* encrypted.

Ansible projects and their playbooks are key tools in DevOps.