**Subject – Verb Agreement**

***Remember that singular verbs end with an “s,” and plural verbs do not!***

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| **Rule 1**  The verb must agree with the subject, not the prepositional phrase that appears between the subject and verb.  **Example:**  Five members ~~of our team~~ work in their home offices. |
| **Rule 2**  Disregard phrases *along with*, *in addition to*, *together with*, *accomplished by*, *as well as* and *in conjunction with*. The verb must agree with the subject.  **Example:**  Madison, as well as the other board members, thinks outside the box. |
| **Rule 3**  Compound subjects joined by *and* or *both*…*and* use the plural verb.  **Example:**  The teacher and the principal need more time to look over the paperwork. |
| **Rule 4**  Compound subjects joined by *or*/*nor*, *neither*/*nor* or *either/or* use the verb that agrees with the subject that is closest to the verb.  **Example:**  Sam or Michelle always reads over the daily task list.  Neither the employee nor the department supervisors were available today. |
| **Rule 5**  Use a singular verb when the words *many a(n*), *each*, and *every* immediately precede a compound subject connected by *and*.  **Example:**  Every team leader and team member has access to the software on the network. |
| **Rule 6**  Use a singular verb to refer to a group as one unit; use a plural verb to refer to group members acting as individual members of the group.  **Example:**  This particular soccer team seems quite focused.  The members of the team are accepting their trophies. |
| **Rule 7**  Indefinite pronouns can require singular or plural verbs.  **Example:**  Everyone plans to attend the picnic.  Most of the options appear workable.  Someone in our group has a copy of the itinerary.  Many of the firm’s supervisors are from Ankeny.  Either of the names works fine.  Neither of those two movies is my favorite. |
| **Rule 8**  Singular verbs are used when names of companies, institutions, organizations, publications, money, time periods, numbers, and measurements are the subjects in the sentence.  A plural verb is used with *a* *number of;* a singular verb is used with *the number of*.  **Example:**  Ten dollars is the donation expected from each employee.  The number of women in management positions is increasing.  A number of students in our class are new to the school. |
| **Rule 9**  Use a singular verb with expressions such as the majority of, part of, a portion of, a percentage of or one-half when the noun that follows the word *of* is singular.  **Example:**  The majority of our team is in support of the consolidation.  Use a plural verb with expressions such as the majority of, a part of, a portion of, a percentage of or one-half when the noun that follows the word *of* is plural  **Example:**  The majority of my colleagues support the merger |
| **Rule 10**  When you have an inverted sentence that begins with *here* and *there*, locate the subject. The verb must agree with the subject.  **Example:**  Here are six more items to add to the agenda.  There is the new flash drive I recently bought. |
| **Rule 11**  Nouns ending in *ics* use a singular verb when the noun refers to one topic of study or body knowledge. Use a plural verb when the noun ending in *ics* refers to more than one idea or item such as qualities or activities.  **Example:**  The statistics from the election survey are changing every day.  The economics class is a required course.  Office politics seem to be very prevalent in this company. |
| **Rule 12**  Use a singular verb when a gerund phrase is the subject of the sentence.  **Example:**  Sharing job responsibilities is helpful for some employees. |
| **Rule 13**  When a sentence contains the phrase “one of those,” use the plural verb.  **Example:**  Marilyn is one of those women who always buy gifts for every coworker.  Reword the sentence. Begin the sentence with “Of those women who always buy gifts for every coworker, Marilyn is one.” |
| **Rule 14**  When a sentence contains the phrase “only one of,” use the singular verb.  **Example:**  She is the only one of the supervisors who buys gifts for every coworker. (*Only* limits it to one) |
| **Rule 15**  Verbs must agree in person with the noun or pronouns to which they refer.  The word *you* is plural; the word *I* is singular.  **Examples:**  I believe it is you who are responsible for making that decision.  Could it be I who am to blame?  Was it you who were chosen to attend the conference? |