

Subject Verb Agreement



RULE 5: When the subjects joined by ‘either or’ or ‘neither nor’ are of different persons, the verb will agree in person and number with the noun nearest to it.

For example: Neither you nor your friends know how to behave.

POLL QUESTION

Neither you **nor** he
going to work on this.

A) **Is**

B) are

RULE 6: If connectives/appositives like along with, together with, as well as, accompanied by etc. are used to combine two subjects, the verb agrees with the subject mentioned first.

For example: Mr. Ram, accompanied by his wife Sita and his brother, was banished to the forest.

POLL QUESTION

Eric along with
Emiley going for a
walk.

A) **IS**

B) ARE

RULE 7: A number of/ the number or
'A number of (some countable noun)' is always plural. 'The
number of (some countable noun)' is always singular.

For example: A number of students are going on the trip.

POLL QUESTION

There a number of important announcements in the bulletin.

A) Is

B) Are

RULE 8: The singular verb form is usually used for units of measurement or time.

For example: Five gallons of oil was required to get the engine running.

POLL QUESTION

Five milliliters of solvent
added to the mixture.

A) Is

B) was

RULE 9: When any of ‘few, many, several, both, all, some’ is used with a countable noun, the verb is plural.

For example: Some men are needed for the battle.

POLL QUESTION

Few left alive after the flood.

A) Were

B) **are**

RULE 10: When any of ‘few, many, several, both, all, some’ is used with an uncountable noun, the verb is singular.

For example: Some milk is spoilt.

POLL QUESTION

In several districts the distribution of digital media fast.

a) **Is**

b) Are

Now try answering these exercises to measure how much you learned!

EXERCISE 1

Find out the subject and then identify the verb that agrees with it.

1. Your friendship over the years and your support (**has**/have) meant a great deal to us.
2. Hamilton Family Center, a shelter for teenage runaways in San Francisco, (offers/offer) a wide variety of services.
3. The main source of income for Trinidad (is/are) oil and pitch.
4. The chances of your being promoted (is/are) excellent.
5. There (was/were) a Pokémon card stuck to the refrigerator.
6. Neither the professor nor his assistants (was/were) able to solve the mystery of the eerie glow in the laboratory.
7. Many hours at the driving range (has/have) led us to design golf balls with GPS locators in them.
8. Discovered in the soil of our city garden (was/were) a button dating from the Civil War dating from the turn of the century.
9. Every year, during the midsummer festival, the smoke of village bonfires (fills/fill) the sky.
10. The story performers (was/were) surrounded by children and adults eager to see magical tales.