

Subject Verb Agreement



Subject-Verb Agreement



subject verb

Two dogs **are**
sitting on the grass.



subject verb

One dog **is**
sitting on the grass.

The subject is the part of a sentence or clause that commonly indicates

(a) what it is about, or

(b) who or what performs the action (that is, the agent).

The subject is typically a noun or

Often it appears at the beginning of the sentence.

In a sentence, every verb must have a subject

POLL QUESTION

What is the subject in the following sentence

The dog chases the cat

- a) Dog
- b) Cat

POLL QUESTION

What is the subject in the following sentence

The dog chases the cat

- a) Dog
- b) Cat

Agreement in Subject Verb Agreement, refers to the verb agreeing with the **subject** in number and form of the subject. Subjects must agree with verbs, and pronouns must agree with antecedents.

Singular subjects need singular verbs; plural subjects need plural verbs.

NOTE: In grammar, number refers to the two forms of a word: singular (one) or plural (more than one).

POLL QUESTION

The subject agrees with the verb in the following sentence:

The dogs chase the cat

A) True

B) False

ANSWER

The subject agrees with the verb in the following sentence

The dogs chase the cat

A) True

B) False

A simple subject-verb agreement definition implies that the subject of the sentence and the verb of the sentence must be in agreement in number.

Let's take an example to understand this concept.

Example 1: The student is writing with his fountain pen.

In this case, the subject of the sentence is 'Student' and the verb used is singular in nature, 'writing'.

Example 2: The students are writing with their fountain pen.

In this case, the subject of the sentence is 'students' and the verb used is plural in nature, 'are writing'.

In the present tense, verbs agree with their subjects in NUMBER (singular/plural) and in PERSON (first, second, or third). The present tense ending **–s (or –es)** is used on a verb if the subject is **THIRD PERSON SINGULAR**. Otherwise, the verb takes **NO ENDING**

	SINGULAR		PLURAL	
First Person	I	love	We	love
Second Person	You	love	you	love
Third Person	He/she/it	loves	They	love

- If the concept still confuses you, try answering the following questions to understand when to use the **-s (or -es)** form of a present tense verb.

Is the verb's subject **he, she, it or one**?

YES →

Use -s form
(loves, tries, has)

↓ NO

Is the subject a **singular** noun
(such as parent)?

YES →

Use -s form

↓ NO

Is the subject a **singular indefinite** noun
– anybody, anyone, each, either,
everybody, everyone, everything,
neither, no one, someone, or
something?

YES →

Use -s form

↓ NO

Use the base form of the verb (love, try, have)

RULE 1: When two subjects are joined by ‘and’, the verb is plural.

- **Example:** A car and a bike are my means of transportation.

POLL QUESTION

Annie and her brothers..... at school.

A) IS

B) ARE

RULE 2: When two singular nouns joined by 'and' refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.

For example: The captain and coach of the team has been sacked.

POLL QUESTION

The secretary and treasurer _____
arrested

A) Has been

B) Is been

RULE 3: Indefinite pronouns (everyone, each one, someone, somebody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody etc.) are always singular.

For example: Everyone is selfish.

We do not use 'are' in this sentence.

This rule does not apply to: few, many, several, both, all, some.

POLL QUESTION

Each of the diversan oxygen tank.

A) HAS

B) HAVE

RULE 4: When the percentage or a part of something is mentioned with plural meaning the plural verb is used.

For example: 40 of every 100 children are malnourished.

POLL QUESTION

1 out of Every 10 book lovers.....
sitting n library every hour

- a) Is
- b) Are