

Advanced & Post Reading Material (APRM)
English for Professional Purposes I (BELH 2003)

Semester III

Term II

2024-25

Module II : Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-Verb Agreement

Are the following sentences correct?

- She are my best friend.
- They is going to watch movie today
- I is drinking water.

Sentences written above are not correct as the verbs in these sentences don't agree with their respective subjects. In a sentence, the verb must agree with its subject in number and person.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Every word in the sentence is used under a pattern or scheme that is called agreement. Subject and verb, the two most important elements of the sentence should also be in agreement.

<u>Condition & Rules</u>	<u>Example</u>	<u>Agreement</u>
1. The verb must agree with the subject in number and person. If the subject is singular, the verb should also be singular If the subject is plural, the verb should also be plural	She is my best friend. I am drinking water. They are going to watch movie today.	She (Singular Subject) is (Singular verb) I (Singular Subject) am (Singular verb) They (Plural Subject) are (plural verb)
2. Subject and verb are placed separately: Eliminating middle phrases and clauses to identify subject. Verb is used according to subject.	<div>Phrase</div> <div>1-The weather <u>in mountainous regions</u> is treacherous during the winter.</div> <div>2-A box of sweet mangoes is in the car.</div> <div>clause</div> <div>3-Storms <u>that occur during winter</u> cause deep snow drifts.</div> <div>4-The boys standing in the corner are hockey players.</div>	Weather (Singular Subject) is (Singular verb) A box (Singular Subject) is (Singular verb) Storms (Plural subject) Cause (plural verb) The boys (Plural subject) are (plural verb)
3. Subject has two or more parts: and vs. additive phrases and • Two or more singular subjects may be joined by ' and ' forming compound subjects. Plural Verb is used Exception: With pair words that denote single idea, always singular verb is used. Some of these pair words are- Bread and Butter, Rice and Curry, Hammer and Sickle, Slow and Steady, Horse and Carriage, Crown and Glory, Rise and Fall, Law and order, etc.	1. Silver, gold and other metals are mined in Western Australia. 2. Slow and steady wins the race.	Silver, gold and other metals (Plural Subject) are (Plural verb) Slow and Steady(plural subject) wins(Singular verb)

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<p>With additive phrases such as- along with, in addition to, as well as, together with, unlike, nothing but</p> <p>Verb is used according to subject that is placed first</p>	<p>1-Manisha <u>as well as</u> her sisters has chosen IT Branch.</p> <p>2- They <u>alongwith</u> their friend have filled the examination form.</p>	<p>Manisha (singular Subject) has(singular verb)</p> <p>They (plural subject) have (plural verb)</p>
<p>4. When subject follows the verb, especially the sentence starts with there, here, this, that, it. Verb is always used according to the subject.</p>	<p>1.There are many new courses available in the field of computer science.</p> <p>2. Here begins the unforgettable extravaganza of annual youth fest in Engineering College.</p>	<p>Existential subject There, new courses (Plural subject) are (Plural Verb)</p> <p>Dummy Subject here annual youth fest(Singular Subject) begins (Singular verb)</p>
<p>5. Subject is connected by 'or', 'nor', 'either . . . or', 'neither . . . nor', none but words. the verb agrees with the subject nearest to it.(Principle of Proximity)</p>	<p>Neither Rohan nor his friends have submitted the assignment.</p> <p>Rohan or Sonu goes to school.</p>	<p>his Friends (plural subject) have submitted (plural verb form)</p> <p>Sonu (Singular Subject) goes (Singular verb)</p>
<p>6. When Subject is an Indefinite pronoun 'each', 'either', 'neither', 'another', 'anyone', 'anybody', 'anything', 'someone', 'somebody', 'something', 'one', 'everyone', 'everybody', 'everything', 'no one', 'nobody', 'nothing', Singular verb is used.</p> <p>When the pronouns 'both', 'many', 'few', 'several', 'other', are used in a sentence, Plural verb is used.</p> <p>Words like 'none', 'any', 'all', 'more', 'most', 'some' take singular or plural verb, depending on the context.</p>	<p>1.Everyone in the group has a job to do to complete the project in time.</p> <p>2.Nobody is going to help Shanaya in Preparing dinner tonight.</p> <p>3. Many of the students in the group work consistently.</p> <p>4.All of the project work was done by the students of B.tech III year.</p> <p>4.All the projects were submitted in time by B.tech III year students.</p>	<p>Everyone (Singular subject) am (Singular verb)</p> <p>Nobody (Singular Subject) is going (Singular verb)</p> <p>Many of the students (plural Subject) Work (Plural verb)</p> <p>Work (Singular Subject) was (singular verb)</p> <p>Projects (Plural subject) were (plural form of verb)</p>
<p>6. Subject is a collective noun or non-count noun Collective nouns (e.g., team, committee, family, crowd, audience, government) singular verb is used when referred as single unit otherwise plural verb is used.</p>	<p>The committee was unanimous In the decision to suspend the students who had cheated in the examination.</p> <p>The committee were divided in the decision to suspend the students who had cheated in the examination.</p>	<p>Committee (Collective noun/singular subject) was(singular verb)</p> <p>Committee (Collective noun/Plural subject) Were (Plural verb)</p>

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6. An uncountable noun (e.g. sugar, water, news) singular verb is used	Two spoon sugar is added to make one cup tea.	Sugar (Non-count/singular subject) is (singular verb)
7. Inverted Subject-Verb Order The sentence may begin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> with a prepositional phrase the verb forms of <i>do</i> by adverb To identify subject ask <i>Who?</i> or <i>What?</i> is doing the action and the verb is used accordingly-	1. In the center of the mall stand four statues. 2. Do the students consent to the terms in the contract of participation in the contest? 3. So quickly does he answer the questions in the quiz that we all are surprised	four statues (Plural Subject) stand (Plural verb) Students (Plural Subject) Do consent (Plural verb) He (Singular subject) does answer (Singular verb)
8. With Linking Verbs In sentences with linking verbs (verbs that link or join the subject with an adjective, a noun, or a pronoun), the verb agrees with the subject, not with the subject complement.	1. Jake's favorite food is chocolate chip cookies. 2. Chocolate chip cookies are Jake's favorite food.	Food (singular subject) is (singular verb) Chocolate chip cookies (Plural Subject) are (Plural Verb)
9. With Relative Pronouns When using a relative pronoun (<i>who, which, that, what, whatever, and whoever</i>) to introduce a dependent clause, that verb in the clause should agree in number with the pronoun's antecedent (the word to which the pronoun refers).	1. Jake is the only one who has a security pass..	One (singular subject) has (singular verb)
10. Plural subject specific to amount, sum, distance etc. When plural subject explains specific amount, sum, distance, quantity, time, period as a whole Singular verb is used.	1. Five miles is not a long distance to go by car. 2. Five years is the maximum sentence for that offense.	Five miles (Singular subject) denoting specific distance is (singular verb) Five years (Singular subject) is (Singular verb)
11. Same subject is referred by two singular nouns denoted by one article- Singular verb is used Different subjects are referred by two singular nouns denoted by two articles Plural Verb is used	1. The professor and HOD is presiding over the meeting for discussing the strategies to face the situation. The Professor and the HOD are presiding over the meeting for discussing the strategies to face the situation.	The Professor (Singular Subject/Same person) is presiding (Singular verb) The professor and the head (Plural Subject/different persons) are (plural verb)
12. Some nouns appear to be singular but	1. Police have helped in distributing	Police (Plural Subject)

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<p>they have plural meaning as</p> <p>Cattle, poultry, gentry, police, infantry</p> <p>Plural verb is used</p>	<p>food for the poor people.</p> <p>2. The infantry have marched forward.</p>	<p>have(plural verb)</p> <p>The infantry (Plural Subject)</p> <p>have(plural verb)</p>
<p>13. Some nouns are always used as singular as-</p> <p>Scenery, furniture, advice, information, hair luggage, jewellery, baggage</p> <p>Singular verb is used</p>	<p>The furniture was worn and rustic with wooden frames and upholstered cushions.</p>	<p>Furniture (Singular subject)</p> <p>Was (Singular verb)</p>
<p>14. With fractions, percentages and indefinite quantifiers (e.g., all, few, many, much, some), the verb agrees with the preceding noun or clause:</p>	<p>1-One-third of this note is taken up with statistical analysis.</p> <p>2.Much of the book seems relevant to this study.</p>	<p>One- third(Singular subject)</p> <p>is(Singular verb)</p> <p>Much(Singular subject)</p> <p>Seems (Singular verb)</p>
<p>The following words and their compounds are always singular and require and require a singular verb-</p> <p>Body (anybody, everybody, nobody, somebody)</p> <p>Thing</p> <p>One</p>	<p>i-Everybody in the office has tickets.</p> <p>ii-Something is wrong with him these days.</p> <p>iii-Everyone is required to clear their dues.</p>	