



# Subject Verb Agreement- 8th Sept

Special class

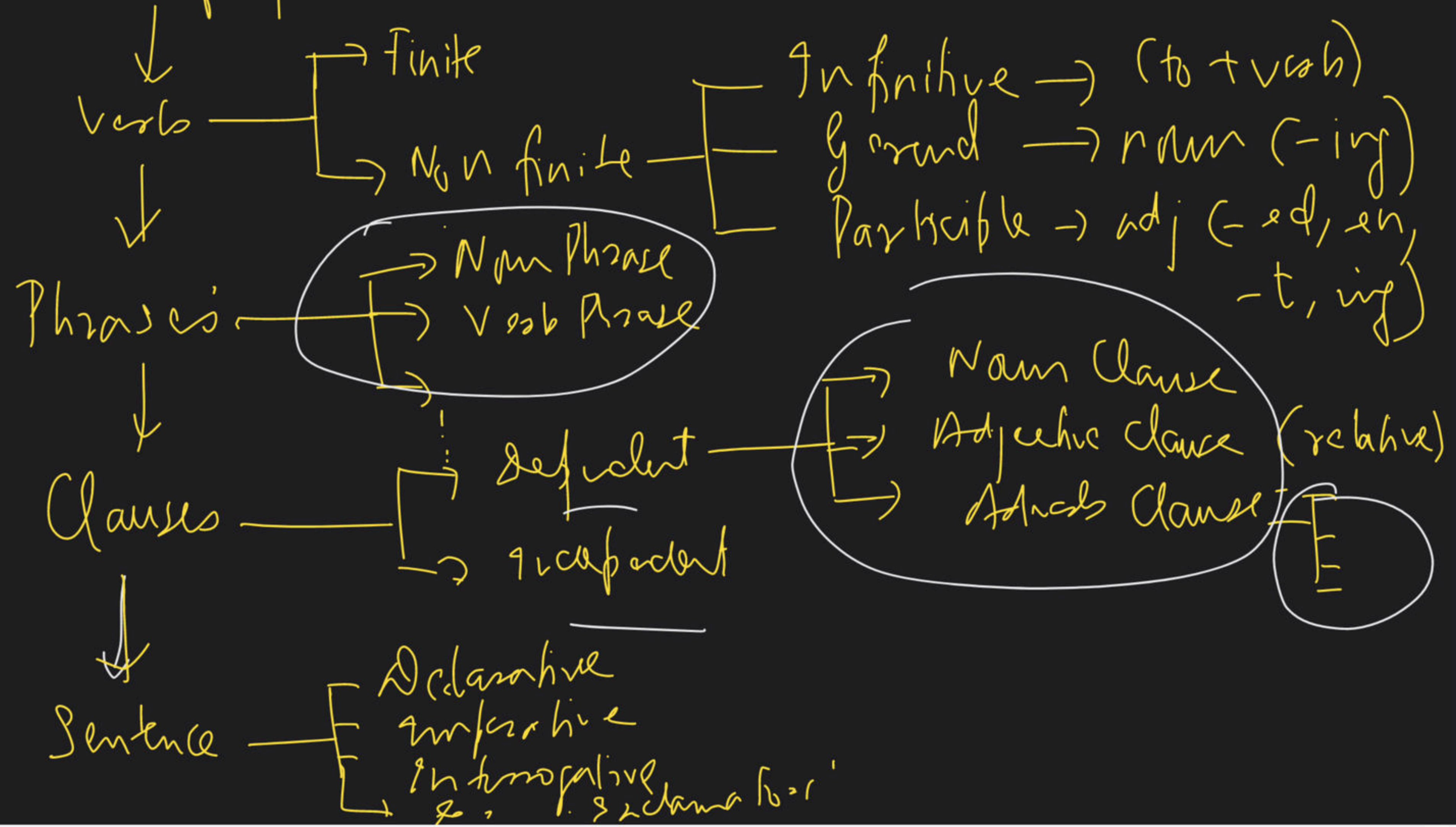
# SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

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CLASS NOTES WITH RULES AND EXAMPLES



# Parts of speech





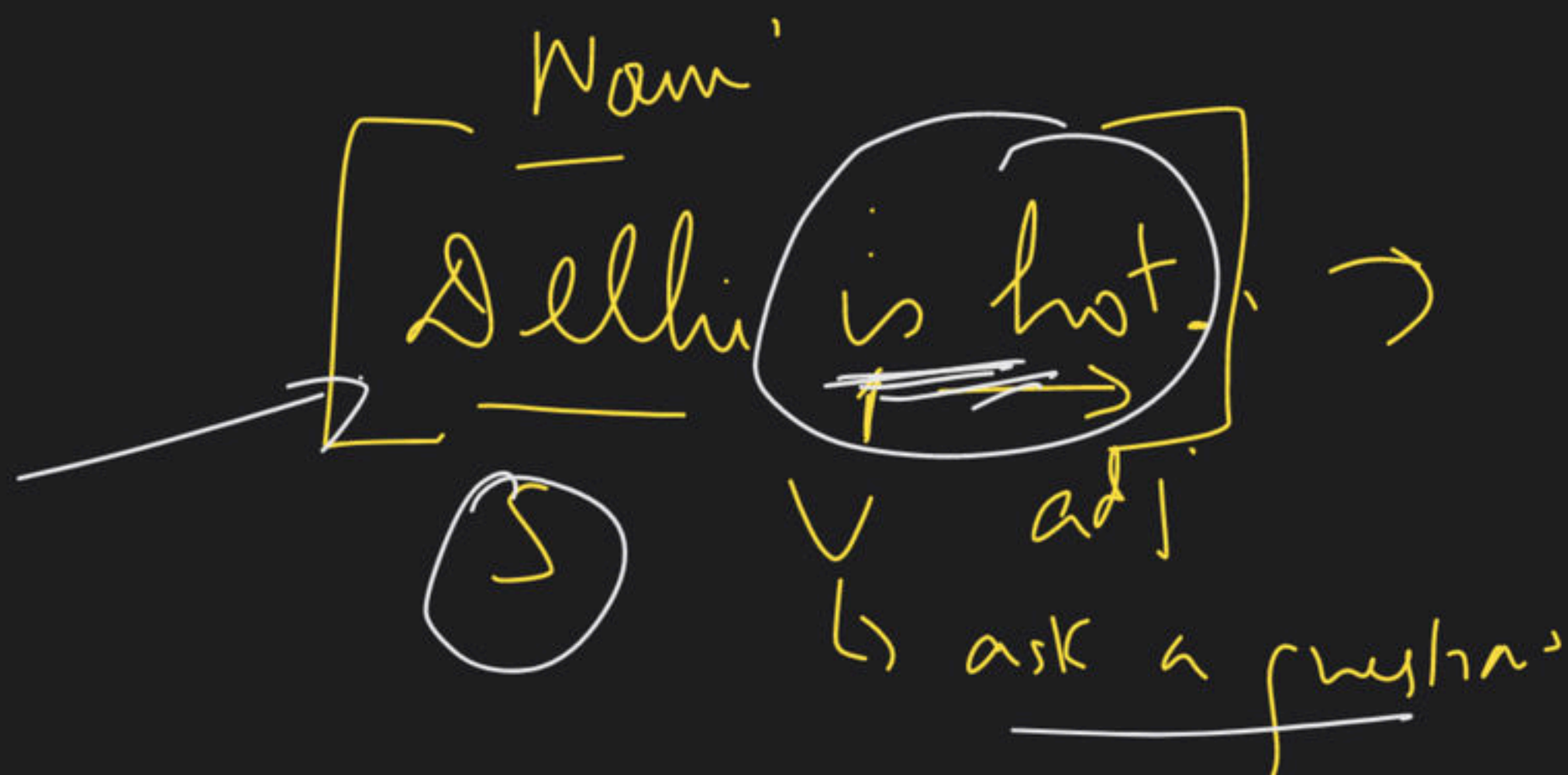
Sentence



IC, punctuation

AC

modifying phrases



(Subject and a verb)

(What can be  
a subject?)

(How to identify  
a subject?)

The price

S

~~of oil and gas and many other  
fuel components necessary for our  
daily use~~

is

~~set to increase~~

has / have / has been

what is

have increased



What can be a subject?

Singing is my hobby.

To love is to live.

Singing classical songs is my hobby.

To love some unselfishly is true love.  
→ Infinitive phrase

1. Noun → John is rich.  
2. Pronoun → He is happy.

3. Gerund

4. Infinitive

5. Noun Phrase

6. Gerund Phrase

7. Infinitive Phrase

8. Relative Clause

(noun clause)

Whatever you say is correct.

Σ



# DEFINITION

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- Subject-verb agreement means that the verb must match the subject in number and person.
- Singular subject → Singular verb.
- Plural subject → Plural verb.
- Example: The cat runs fast. / The cats run fast.

When the verb  
has 's' it means  
it is singular.

(She) likes VARS-

They like VARS-



# RULE 1 – SINGULAR AND PLURAL SUBJECTS

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- Singular subject takes singular verb; plural subject takes plural verb.
- Example: She plays the piano. / They play the piano.



Either - "or", neither, or

## RULE 2 – COMPOUND SUBJECTS

- Joined by 'and' → usually plural.
- Example: Ravi and Sita are friends.
- Joined by 'or/nor' → verb agrees with the nearest subject.
- Example: Either the teacher or the students are ready.

Either he or I am joining the club.  
Either I or she is joining the club.

John and Peter are writing CAT.

Either John or Peter is writing.

Either John or his friends are writing.  
Either his friends or John is writing.



## RULE 3 – INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

✓ Always singular: each, everyone, everybody, anybody, someone, no one, nobody, everything.

• Always plural: few, many, several, both.

• Can be singular or plural: all, any, some, most, none.

Definite → He / She / It / They / them etc

Indefinite → everyone, someone



Most / None

Some

of the

Students

plural

Goal

✓

honest

↓  
is / are

has / have linked

✓

Most / None

Some

of the

girl

singular

Some, All, Most, None

preposition



## RULE 4 – COLLECTIVE NOUNS

- Singular when group acts as a unit: The team wins every match.
- Plural when members act individually: The team are arguing.

The teams are arguing ✓  
A, B, C

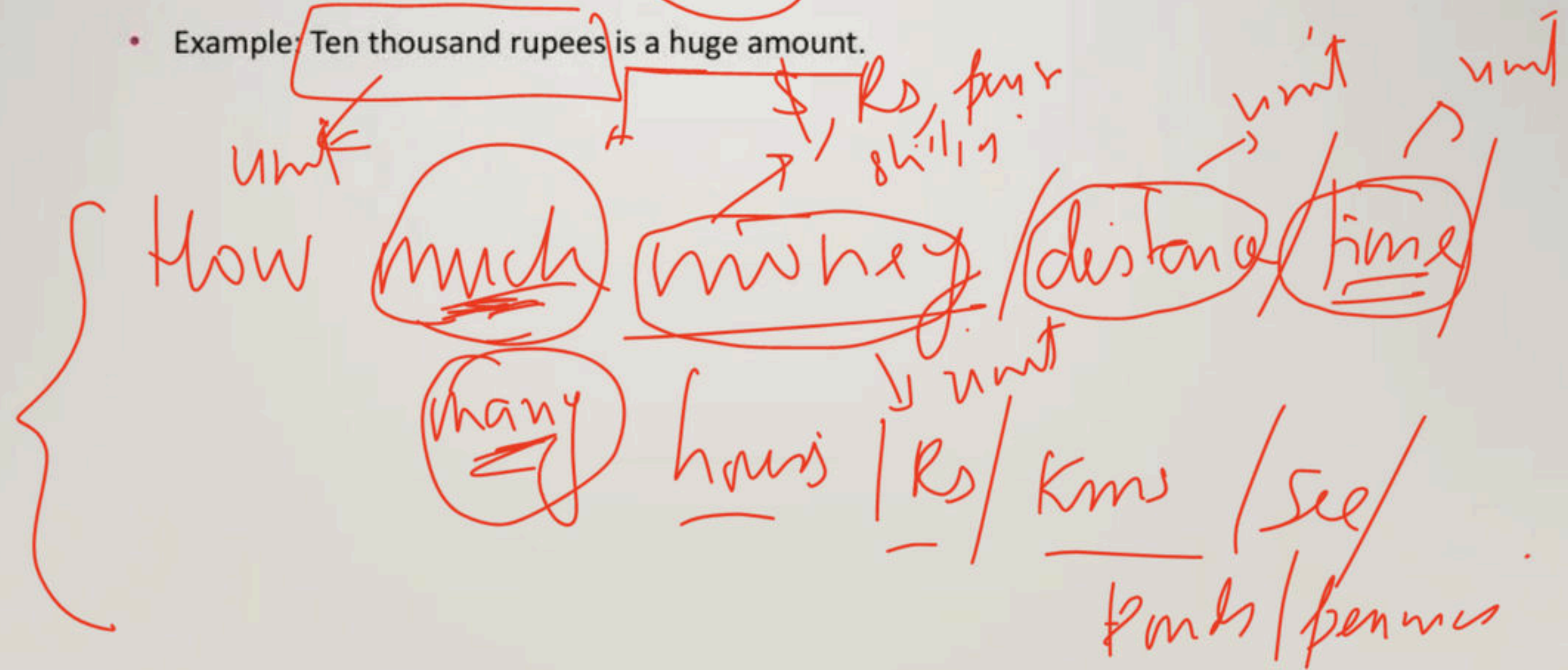
The team are ~



How much love do you have for me?

## RULE 5 – AMOUNTS AND QUANTITIES

- Money, time, distance, weight → singular when seen as a whole.
- Example: Ten thousand rupees is a huge amount.





The rise and the fall of the Romans - a topic  
embird

## RULE 6 – TITLES, NAMES, PLURAL WORDS

(9+)

- Titles of books, movies, etc. take a singular verb.
- Example: 'The Chronicles of Narnia' is my favourite book series.

debate!

is something (9+)

War and Peace is a very long book -

Rajma and Chuk is my fav dish

↓ one unit  
9 incl

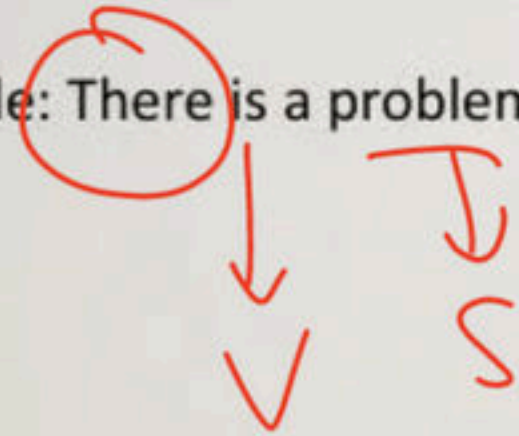
9 incla has won the match

from, I did not know that



## RULE 7 – INVERTED SENTENCES / HERE / THERE

- When sentence begins with 'here' or 'there', subject comes after verb.
- Example: There is a problem. / There are many problems.



There are some children playing  
↓ S in the garden



A man with three wives is a rich man

## RULE 8 – PHRASES WITH WITH/ALONG WITH/AS WELL AS

with  
along with  
as well as

- Do not make the subject plural.
- Example: The teacher, along with the students, is attending the seminar.

The teacher and the students are attending

The man with his advisor is waiting



Diabetes, as well as fatigue, is the cause of my headache -

↑  
additional /  
not important



## RULE 9 – FRACTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

- Verb agrees with noun after 'of'.

- Example: Half of the cake is gone. / Half of the apples are rotten.

$\frac{30}{100}$  of my children are missing.  $\frac{5}{8}$

30% of my school is from VAKC

30% of my class is absent

30% of my caterers are missing



# RULE 10 – EACH / EVERY

- When each/every precedes two or more subjects joined by 'and', use singular verb.

- Example: Every boy and girl is ready.

*Handwritten example:*  
Every wife and husband is responsible for their children.  
*Annotations:*  
- A box is drawn around "boy and girl" in the printed example.  
- An arrow points from the box to the word "is".  
- The word "Every" is circled and underlined in the handwritten example.  
- The phrase "wife and husband" is underlined in the handwritten example.  
- The word "is" is underlined in the handwritten example.  
- The phrase "for their children" is written below the main sentence.



## RULE 11 – RELATIVE PRONOUNS

- Verb agrees with antecedent of pronoun.
- Example: She is one of the students who work hard.
- Example: She is the only one who works hard.

Example: She is one of the students who work hard.

Example: She is the only one who works hard.

Handwritten notes:

✓  
She is one of the students who is/are likely to do well

✓  
She is the one who is likely to do well



who / whom / that / which

refers to what has come immediately before them.

The people who are

you are one of my students who love maths

you are the only students who loves maths



The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.

$S_1$   $S_2$   $V_2$   $V_1$

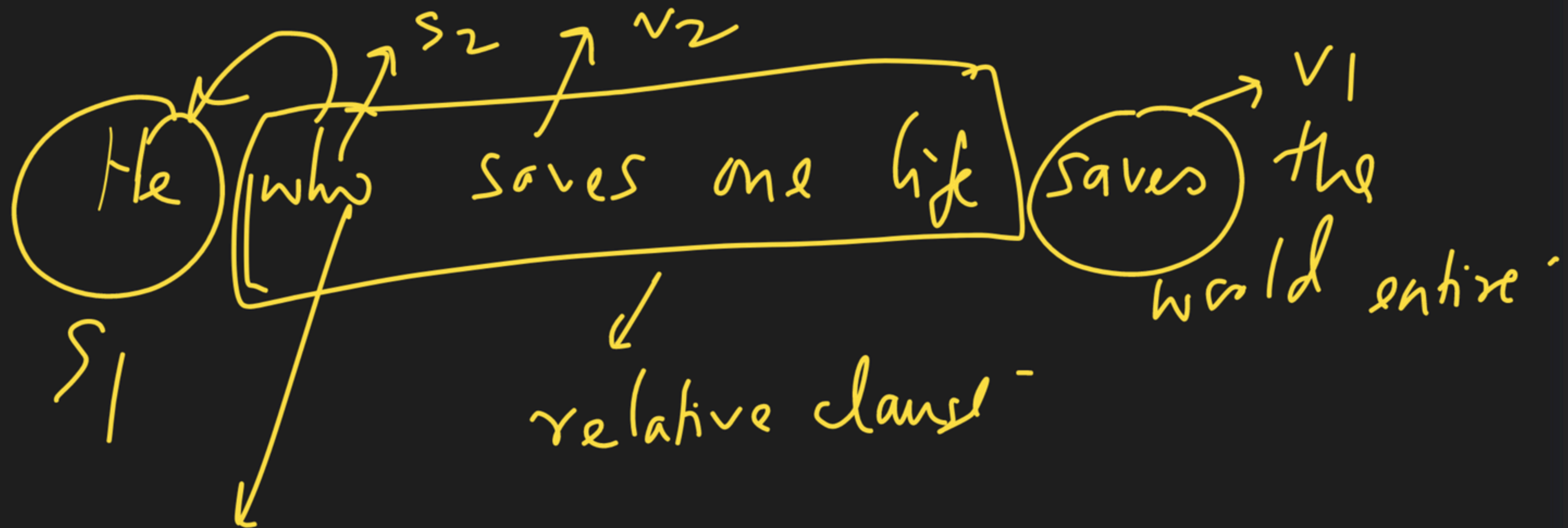
They who love their neighbors love God.

$S_1$   $S_2$   $V_2$   $V_1$

plural (they)

relative clause





Who is relative pronoun referring to 'He'

a p r o n o u n refers to a p r o n o u n



## RULE 12 – SPECIAL NOUNS ENDING IN 'S'

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- Some are singular: news, mathematics, physics, politics.
- Some are plural: scissors, trousers, binoculars.





## SOLVED EXAMPLES

- the subject nearest to the verb
- 
- Either Ramesh or his friends are coming to the party.
  - Each of the students has submitted the homework.
  - The furniture in the house is very old.
  - Five kilometres is a long walk.
  - The quality of the apples is good.
- decides the number of the verb

✗ Either his friends or Ramesh is coming