1. Definition

Subject-verb agreement refers to the rule that the verb must agree with the subject in number (singular/plural).

2. Basic Rules

- **Singular subjects** take **singular verbs**.
  - o *Example:* The **program** runs smoothly.
- **Plural subjects** take **plural verbs**.
  - o *Example:* The **applications** require updates.

3. Special Cases in Subject-Verb Agreement

1. **Subjects joined by 'and'** → Use a **plural verb**
   - o *Example:* Java **and** Python **are** popular programming languages.
2. **Subjects joined by 'or' / 'nor'**
   - o If subjects are **both singular**, use a **singular verb**.
     - ▪ *Example:* Neither Python nor Java **is** difficult to learn.
   - o If one subject is **plural**, the verb agrees with the **closer subject**.
     - ▪ *Example:* Either the developer **or** the testers **are** responsible.
3. **Indefinite Pronouns**
   - o **Singular:** Each, Everyone, Someone, Anyone, Nobody → **Singular verb**
     - ▪ *Example:* Everyone **needs** a backup of their code.
   - o **Plural:** Few, Many, Both, Several → **Plural verb**
     - ▪ *Example:* Many **prefer** cloud storage.
4. **Collective Nouns** (team, group, data, audience)
   - o Considered **singular** when acting as a **unit**.
     - ▪ *Example:* The development team **is** working on the project.
   - o Considered **plural** when referring to **individual members**.
     - ▪ *Example:* The team **are** arguing about the best framework.
5. **Uncountable Nouns** (software, information, research) → Use **singular verb**
   - o *Example:* The software **needs** an update.
6. **Expressions of Quantity**
   - o "A lot of," "Some of," "Most of" → Verb agrees with the noun after 'of'.
     - ▪ *Example:* Most of the data **is** accurate.
     - ▪ *Example:* Most of the files **are** corrupted.
7. **Titles, Book Names, and Software Names** → Singular verb
   - o *Example:* "Data Structures and Algorithms" **is** a crucial subject.
8. **Time, Money, and Measurement** → Singular verb
   - o *Example:* Five hours **is** needed to complete the testing.
9. **Relative Clauses (Who/Which/That)** → Verb agrees with **the antecedent**
   - o *Example:* The programmer **who codes** efficiently **is** valuable.

4. Common Errors to Avoid

❌ The data **are** incorrect. (**Incorrect**)
✔ The data **is** incorrect. (**Correct**)

❌ The list of topics **are** long. (**Incorrect**)
✔ The list of topics **is** long. (**Correct**)

❌ Neither of the scripts **work**. (**Incorrect**)
✔ Neither of the scripts **works**. (**Correct**)