

## SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

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❖ **SUBJECT**:- person,place,thing or idea that is doing or being something.

**EXAMPLE**:- Rony plays cricket regularly.

### SUBJECT-VERB-AGREEMENT

For making a sentence grammatically correct, a verb must agree with it's Subject in Number.

#### And when SUBJECT IS SINGULAR

- That monkey eats Banana.
- This car goes fast.

#### SUBJECT IS PLURAL

- Those monkeys eat bananas.
- These cars go fast.

There are some important rules related to SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT.

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#### Subject-Verb Agreement Rules

There are 12 subject-verb agreement rules. To be able to use subject-verb agreement correctly in a sentence, one must understand these rules.

**1. A phrase or clause between subject and verb does not change the number of the subject.**

Eg 1: A *pride* of lions *drinks* water from the pond.

Explanation: Here, the pride of lions is the prepositional phrase. The verb *drinks* agrees with pride not *lions*.

## **2. Presence of infinite pronouns as subjects.**

- **Singular indefinite pronoun subjects take singular verbs.**

This condition applies to *each, either, neither, someone, somebody, something, everyone, everybody, everything one, no one, nobody, nothing, anyone, anybody, anything*.

Eg 1: Each *student* *does* homework on time.

Explanation: Here, infinite pronoun (each) is singular, so verb (does) is singular.

- **Plural indefinite pronoun subjects take plural verbs.**

This condition applies to *several, few, both, many*

Eg 2: Both *children* *go* to school together.

Explanation: Here, infinite pronoun (children) is plural, so verb (go) is singular.

- **Some infinite pronouns may be either singular or plural like in case of countable or uncountable.**

Eg 3: My *hair* *is* falling.

Explanation: Hair is uncountable, thus singular verb (is) has been used.

Eg 4: Some of the *mangoes* *are* raw.

Explanation: Mangoes are countable, thus plural verb (are) has been used.

## **3. Compound subjects joined by and are always plural.**

Eg 1: A *black pepper and chillies* *make* food spicy.

Explanation: Black pepper and chillies are plural thus, the verb used (make) is plural.

## **4. With compound subjects joined by or/nor, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it.**

Eg 1: Neither the *teacher* nor the *students* *are* happy with the announcement.

Explanation: Teacher and students (plural), thus the verb used (are) is plural.

### **5. Inverted Subjects: The subject and verb must be in agreement.**

Eg 1: There *is* only one *letter* in the mail box.

Explanation: Since subject (letter) is singular, the verb used (is) is also singular.

### **6. Collective noun may be singular or plural depending on meaning or usage.**

Eg 1: The Indian cricket *team* *has* been playing well in the current tournament.

Explanation: Here, the subject (Indian cricket team) is singular so the verb used (has) is singular.

Eg 2: The Indian cricket *team members* *have* been playing well in the current tournament.

Explanation: Here, the subject (team members) is plural so the verb used (have) is plural.

### **7. Titles of single units are always singular.**

Eg 1: *War and Peace* *is* written by Leo Tolstoy.

Explanation: Here, the subject (book name War and Peace) is singular, thus verb used (is) is singular.

### **8. Plural form subjects**

**Plural form subjects with singular meaning always take a singular verb.**

Eg 1: *Physics* *has* so many tough topics.

Explanation: Here, subject (Physics) has singular meaning, thus verb used (has) is singular.

**Plural form subjects with singular or plural meaning take a singular or plural verb, depending on meaning.**

Eg 1: *Politics* *is* an interesting topic to debate on.

Explanation: Here, the subject (politics) is used in singular term thus, the verb (is) used is single.

Eg 2: The *politics* of different countries *are* specific to their society.

Explanation: Here, the subject (politics) is used in plural form thus, the verb (are) used is plural

**Plural form subjects with a plural meaning take plural verb.**

Eg 1: My pink *socks* *are* wet.

Explanation: Here, the subject (socks) is in plural form thus, the verb (are) used is plural.

Eg 2: My pair of pink socks is wet.

Explanation: Here, the subject (*pair*) is in singular form thus, the verb (*is*) used is singular.

**9. In case of subject and subjective complement of different number, the verb always agrees with the subject.**

Eg 1: My *favourite food* is burger and fries.

Explanation: Here, the subject (food) is in singular form thus, the verb (*is*) used is singular.

Eg 2: Burger and fries are my favourite food.

Explanation: Here, the subject (burger and fries) is plural thus, verb (*are*) used is plural.

**10. For fractional expressions, sometimes singular and sometimes plural verbs are used, depending on the meaning.**

Eg 1: A *majority of* the class 9 students *was* unhappy with extra class.

Explanation: Here, the fractional [removed]majority of the class 9 students) is the singular subject, thus verb (*was*) used is singular.

**11. If the sentence has both positive and negative subjects and one is plural, the other singular, the verb should agree with the positive subject.**

Eg 1: It is the *implementation* and not the ideas that *is* posing a problem.

Explanation: Here, the positive subject is (implementation) is singular, and negative subject (not the ideas) is plural, thus verb (*is*) used is singular.

**12. In case of modifiers between a subject and its verb, modifiers must not confuse the agreement between the subject and its verb.**

Eg 1: The *doctor* who was chosen among the group of professionals as the housing secretary, *is* not performing his responsibilities well.

Explanation: Here, the subject (doctor) is singular, thus the verb (*is*) used is singular.