

# Subject-Verb Agreement:

Understanding the concord between subjects and verbs in sentences.

Subject-verb agreement is a crucial aspect of English grammar that ensures the concord or harmony between the subject and the verb in a sentence. When constructing a sentence, it is essential to ensure that the subject and verb agree in terms of number (singular or plural). By understanding subject-verb agreement, we can create grammatically correct and coherent sentences. Let's explore this concept in more detail.

## 1. Singular Subjects and Verbs:

When a subject is singular, the verb that accompanies it should also be singular. This means that singular subjects take singular verbs. For example:

- The cat **is** sleeping on the couch.
- She **walks** to work every day.
- The book **belongs** to me.

## 2. Plural Subjects and Verbs:

When a subject is plural, the verb that accompanies it should also be plural. Plural subjects take plural verbs. For example:

- The dogs **are** barking loudly.
- They **like** to play basketball.
- The books **were** scattered on the floor.

## 3. Subject-Verb Agreement with Indefinite Pronouns:

Indefinite pronouns, such as "everyone," "nobody," "each," and "someone," are singular and require singular verbs. Examples:

- Everybody **needs** to contribute to the project.
- Nobody **wants** to be left behind.
- Each student **has** their own assignment.

## 4. Compound Subjects:

When two or more subjects are joined by "and," they form a compound subject. In this case, the verb should be plural to agree with the plural compound subject. Examples:

- John **and** Sarah **are** going to the party.
- The cat **and** the dog **chase** each other in the yard.
- Apples **and** oranges **are** fruits.

## 5. Subject-Verb Agreement with Collective Nouns:

Collective nouns, which refer to a group of individuals, can take either a singular or plural verb, depending on the context. If the group is acting as a single unit, a singular verb is used. If the emphasis is on the individuals within the group, a plural verb is used. Examples:

- The committee **is** making a decision. (Singular)
- The team **is** winning the game. (Singular)
- The committee **are** discussing different ideas. (Plural)
- The team **are** practicing their skills. (Plural)

It is important to note that subject-verb agreement can sometimes be influenced by phrases or words that come between the subject and the verb. However, the key principle remains the same: the verb must agree with the subject in terms of number.

Mastering subject-verb agreement ensures clarity and grammatical correctness in our writing and speaking. By paying attention to the number of subjects and selecting the appropriate verb form, we can construct sentences that accurately convey our intended meaning.

### **COMPLETE A CHALLENGE**

Instructions: Choose the correct verb form that agrees with the subject in each sentence.

1. The cat \_\_\_\_\_ on the roof.  
a) is  
b) are  
c) were
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ going to the movies tonight.  
a) is  
b) am  
c) are
3. Nobody \_\_\_\_\_ aware of the situation.  
a) am  
b) are  
c) is
4. The books \_\_\_\_\_ all over the shelf.  
a) were  
b) is  
c) am
5. Each student \_\_\_\_\_ a responsibility to complete their assignments.  
a) have  
b) has  
c) is having
6. The committee \_\_\_\_\_ discussing the new proposal.  
a) are  
b) am  
c) is
7. John and Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ for a walk in the park.  
a) is  
b) are  
c) were

8. The team \_\_\_\_\_ the championship game.  
a) am winning  
b) is winning  
c) are winning
9. Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ a chance to participate.  
a) have  
b) has  
c) is having
10. The dog and the cat \_\_\_\_\_ playing together.  
a) is  
b) are  
c) was

Answer Key:

1. a) is  
2. c) are  
3. c) is  
4. a) were  
5. b) has  
6. c) is  
7. b) are  
8. b) is winning  
9. b) has  
10. b) are

Evaluate your responses and count the number of correct answers to gauge your understanding of subject-verb agreement.