

Subject-Verb Agreement

BY: ADNAN AHMED

Subject-Verb Agreement

- "She go to university every day."
- "They goes to university every day."

Subject-Verb Agreement

- ✓ Subject-Verb Agreement means that the verb in a sentence must match the subject in number (singular/plural) and person (first/second/third).

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Basic Rule

Singular subject → Singular verb

Example: She writes.

Plural subject → Plural verb

Example: They write.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Subjects Joined by 'and'

Normally plural →

Example: Ali and Sara are playing.

Exception: If both subjects refer to one person/thing → Singular

Example: Bread and butter is my favorite breakfast.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Subjects Joined by 'or/nor'

The verb agrees with the subject nearest to it.

Example: Either Ali or his friends are coming.

Example: Either his friends or Ali is coming.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Indefinite Pronouns (Singular)

Everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, nobody, nothing → Singular verb

Example: Everyone is present.

Example: Nobody knows the answer.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Indefinite Pronouns (Plural)

Few, many, several, both → Plural verb

Example: Few have arrived

Example: Many are interested.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Indefinite Pronouns (Depends on Context)

All, some, none, most → Depends on whether the noun is countable or uncountable

Example: Some of the water is dirty.

Example: Some of the students are late.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Uncountable Nouns → Singular Verb

Furniture, advice, information, news, water, money, etc.

Example: The information is correct.

Example: Money makes people greedy.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Collective Nouns

When seen as a unit → Singular verb

Example: The team is winning.

When seen as individuals → Plural verb

Example: The team are arguing among themselves.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Titles, Subjects, and Names

Singular verb, even if they look plural.

Example: "The United States is a big country."

Example: "Mathematics is difficult."

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Distances, Periods, Amounts

Treated as singular → Singular verb.

Example: Ten miles is a long distance.

Example: Two weeks is enough time.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Inverted Sentences (Here/There)

The verb agrees with the subject, not with here or there.

Example: There is a book on the table.

Example: There are many students in the class.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Relative Pronouns

The verb agrees with the antecedent (the noun before the pronoun).

Example: She is one of the girls who like/likes music.

Example: She is the only one who likes music.

Subject-Verb Agreement

➤ Common Errors

- ✓ **Incorrect:** The students was happy.
- ✓ **Correct:** The students were happy.

- ✓ **Incorrect:** Each of the boys are intelligent.
- ✓ **Correct:** Each of the boys is intelligent.

- ✓ **Incorrect:** Neither of them are coming.
- ✓ **Correct:** Neither of them is coming.

Incorrect Sentences (Activity)

- ✓ The teacher and the students was happy about the trip.
- ✓ My brother or my cousins is going to bring the books.
- ✓ Everyone in the class are excited for the test.
- ✓ The team are winning its first match today.
- ✓ Bread and butter are my favorite breakfast.
- ✓ The news about the results are surprising.
- ✓ Neither of the two boys have done his homework.
- ✓ Ten kilometers are a long way to walk.
- ✓ Mathematics are my favorite subject.
- ✓ Either the teachers or the principal are responsible for the announcement.

Correct (Activity)

- ✓ The teacher and the students were happy about the trip.
- ✓ My brother or my cousins are going to bring the books.
- ✓ Everyone in the class is excited for the test.
- ✓ The team is winning its first match today.
- ✓ Bread and butter is my favorite breakfast.
- ✓ The news about the results is surprising.
- ✓ Neither of the two boys has done his homework.
- ✓ Ten kilometers is a long way to walk.
- ✓ Mathematics is my favorite subject.
- ✓ Either the teachers or the principal is responsible for the announcement.

Reference

- Eastwood, J. (2014). Oxford Practice Grammar Intermediate . *New York: Oxford University Press. MLA Style. Eastwood, John.*
- Manganhar, G. H. (2021) “Towards Meaningful and Enlightening English”
Ghuftugu

THANKS.

BY: ADNAN AHMED

