

# Uses of English verb forms



The four verb aspects in English (simple, continuous, perfect, and perfect continuous) can be combined with the past, present, and future to create 12 verb forms.

Verb Form	Formula	Uses	Example Sentences
Present Continuous <sup>[2]</sup>	Am/is/are + <a href="#">present participle</a>	Now. Longer actions in progress now. Near future. Repetition and irritation with "always".	I <b>am sitting</b> . I <b>am studying</b> to become a doctor. I <b>am meeting</b> some friends after work. She <b>is always coming</b> to class late.
Past Perfect <sup>[7]</sup>	Had + past participle.	Completed action before something in the past. Duration before something in the past (non-continuous verbs).	You <b>had studied</b> English before you moved to New York. By the time Alex finished his studies, he <b>had been</b> in London for over eight years.
Past Perfect Continuous <sup>[8]</sup>	Had been + present participle.	Duration before something in the past. Cause of something in the past.	They <b>had been talking</b> for over an hour before Tony arrived. Jason was tired because he <b>had been jogging</b> .
Present Perfect Continuous <sup>[6]</sup>	Has/have + been + present participle.	Duration from the past until now. Recently, lately.	They <b>have been talking</b> for the last hour. Recently, I <b>have been feeling</b> really tired.
Present Perfect <sup>[5]</sup>	Has/have + <a href="#">past participle</a> .	Unspecified time before now. Duration from the past until now (non-continuous verbs).	I <b>have seen</b> that movie twenty times. I <b>have had</b> a cold for two weeks.
Past Simple <sup>[3]</sup>	Verb + ed, or irregular verbs.	Completed action in the past. A series of completed actions. Duration in the past.	I <b>saw</b> a movie yesterday. I <b>finished</b> work, <b>walked</b> to the beach, and <b>found</b> a nice place to swim. I <b>lived</b> in Brazil for two years. I <b>studied</b> French when I was a child.

Verb Form	Formula	Uses	Example Sentences
		Habits in the past. Past facts or generalizations.	She <b>was</b> shy as a child, but now she is very outgoing.
Present Simple <sup>[1]</sup>	<a href="#">Verb</a> + s/es in <a href="#">third person</a> .	Repeated actions.  Facts or generalizations.  Scheduled events in the near future.  Now (non-continuous verbs).	I <b>play</b> football. Cats <b>like</b> milk. The match <b>starts</b> at 2 o'clock. I <b>am</b> here now.
Past Continuous <sup>[4]</sup>	Was/were + present participle.	Interrupted action in the past. Specific time as an interruption. Parallel actions. Atmosphere. Repetition and irritation with "always".	I <b>was watching</b> TV when she called. Last night at 6 PM, I <b>was eating</b> dinner. I <b>was studying</b> while he <b>was making</b> dinner. The sun <b>was shining</b> . She <b>was always coming</b> to class late.
Future Continuous <sup>[11]</sup>	will + be + present participle	Action in progress at a particular time in the future.  Future action continuing over a period of time.	I <b>will</b> probably <b>be running</b> when you come home.  Be quiet when you come home. Everyone <b>will be sleeping</b> . I'm <b>going to be studying</b> all next week. We <b>will be traveling</b> for most of 2019.
Future Perfect Continuous <sup>[12]</sup>	will + have + been + present participle	Duration before something in the future.  Cause of something in the future.	By the time I finish my Ph.D., I <b>will have been studying</b> for over 20 years!  The house will be a mess. We <b>will have been painting</b> all day.
Future Perfect <sup>[10]</sup>	Will + have + verb. Am/is/are + going to + have + verb.	Completed action before something in the future.  Duration before something in the future.	The house isn't completely built yet, but when I visit in June, they <b>will have finished</b> it.  You can come over at 8. We <b>will have eaten</b> dinner by then.
Simple Future <sup>[9]</sup>	Will + verb. Am/is/are + going to + verb.	"Will" to express a voluntary action. "Will" to express a promise. "Be going to" to express	I <b>will send</b> you the information when I get it. I <b>will call</b> you when I arrive. He <b>is going to spend</b> his vacation in Hawaii.

Verb Form	Formula	Uses	Example Sentences
		a plan. "Will" or "be going to" to express a prediction.	The year 2222 <b>will be</b> a very interesting year.

## What is Subject-Verb Agreement?

Subject-verb agreement means that a subject and an action word should always match. Still confused? Continue reading to find a subject-verb agreement definition.

### Basic Rules:

Rule 1: **If there's a singular subject, you have to match it with a singular action or being word.**

Rule 2: **If the subject is plural, you have to ensure there is a plural action or being word**

Let's look at some subject-verb agreement examples describing the first two rules. These should be kept in mind when working on the subject-verb agreement worksheet. They'll help give you a better understanding of subject verb object sentence structure:

- **Correct:** *He **eats** the apple pie.*
- **Incorrect:** *He **eat** the apple pie.*

This example follows a basic subject-verb-object sentence order. The subject is *he*, the action is to *eat*, and the object is *apple pie*. In the first sentence, both the subject and verb are in singular form, therefore it follows subject-verb agreement. However, the second sentence is incorrect as the singular subject *he* does not match the plural form *eat*.

Although it might seem a bit strange, the singular form of a regular action word adds an -s, whereas the plural form removes the -s. For instance, let's talk about the forms of *run*.

*Runs* is the singular form, while *run* is the plural form. Following are subject-verb agreement examples, showing how plural sentences work:

- **Correct:** *They **eat*** the apple pie.
- **Incorrect:** *They **eats*** the apple pie.

These subject-verb agreement practice sentences give you a feel for how the two subject-verb agreement rules are applied. The rules build the foundation of subject-verb agreement and can appear simple. However, even native English speakers sometimes get confused with subject-verb agreement rules. Therefore, understanding the rules is essential, and completing some subject-verb agreement practice (such as a subject verb-agreement worksheet) is useful. The subject-verb agreement definition is better understood by examining subject-verb agreement rules. In addition, following these rules will guide you in selecting the correct verb form to match a subject, as well as help ensure that a subject-verb agreement error is not committed. Check your progress through the subject-verb agreement worksheets at the end of this guide. They'll help you understand what is a subject-verb agreement.

### **What is Subject-Verb Agreement?:**

### **Rules for Adding Words to Sentences**

**Rule 3:** The words in between the subject and the action or being word do not affect the basic subject-verb agreement rules.

- **Correct:** The wolf, who has six siblings, **is** ferocious.
- **Incorrect:** The wolf, who has six siblings, **are** ferocious.

In subject-verb agreement, look to the subject to guide whether the agreement should be plural or singular. In the above examples, even though the words following the subject refer to something plural, because the initial subject is singular, every part of the sentence must also be singular.

Try these practice sentences. Choose the correct answer in the parentheses:

- My sisters, as well as with my mother, (sing/sings) very well.
- That cat, as well as all the other neighborhood cats, (loves/love) fish.
- Joan, along with John, always (visits/visit) on Saturdays.

Did you remember the subject-verb agreement definition and the three subject-verb agreement rules stated so far? Did you apply them thoughtfully in the subject-verb agreement practice questions above? All of the answers were the first choice.

**Rule 4:** Use a plural form if you connect multiple nouns or pronouns with the subject using the word ‘and.’

- **Correct:** His dog and cat ***eat*** food from the same bowl.
- **Incorrect:** His dog and cat ***eats*** food from the same bowl.

In the subject-verb agreement sentences shown above, the subject became plural since two different nouns were connected with the word ‘and.’ This made the subject become plural.

**Rule 5:** As per subject-verb agreement rules, the opposite is true when you connect nouns or pronouns with words such as ***or*** or ***nor***. The action or being word should match the form of the *closest noun or pronoun*. Here are a few subject-verb agreement examples:

- **Correct:** Neither his dogs ***nor*** his ***cat shares*** the same food bowl.
- **Incorrect:** Neither his dogs ***nor*** his ***cat share*** the same food bowl.
- **Correct:** Neither his cat ***nor*** his ***dogs share*** the same food bowl.
- **Incorrect:** Neither his cat ***nor*** his ***dogs shares*** the same food bowl.

Unlike with Rule 4, singular nouns remain singular even with the use of *either/or/nor*; so they require a singular verb.

- **Correct:** John or Paul ***is*** arriving by flight today evening.
- **Incorrect:** John or Paul ***are*** arriving by flight today evening.

Let’s practice our understanding of the subject-verb agreement definition through another example. Which sentence uses subject verb correctly?

- **Example 1:** Neither his dog nor his cats share the same food bowl.
- **Example 2:** Neither his dog nor his cats shares the same food bowl.

If you chose example 1, then you’re correct! The words *cats* is a plural noun, therefore *share* must also be in the plural form.

Here are two subject-verb agreement practice sentences for you:

1. Your son or daughter (walk/walks) very slowly.
2. Your son and daughter (eat/eats) very slowly.

In the first sentence, *walks* is the answer. In the second sentence, *eat* is the answer. Did you get these subject-verb agreement examples correct?

Need a little more help with subject-verb agreement? Try out the subject-verb agreement practice worksheet at the end.

## What is Subject-Verb Agreement?:

### Before and After the Word “Of”

Rule 6: Sometimes in examples of subject-verb structure, you'll find the subject before the word *of*. In this case, you need to double check that your action or being word agrees with the subject to avoid any subject-verb agreement error. Here are a couple subject verb examples:

- **Correct:** *An assorted box* of chocolates **contains** all my favorite varieties.
- **Incorrect:** *An assorted box* of chocolates contain all my favorite varieties.
- **Correct:** *Bundles* of firewood **make** the longest-lasting campfires.
- **Incorrect:** *Bundles* of firewood makes the longest-lasting campfires.

In either of the subject-verb agreement examples, you can remove the noun phrase and the previously incorrect sentences would become correct. For example, the statement *firewood makes the longest-lasting campfires* is grammatically correct by itself. However, the previous example references *bundles* of firewood, which is plural, and therefore the verb must also be in the plural form.

**Rule 7:** You'll often find that the subject arrives after the word *of*, which is usually the case while writing sentences that express quantity. Some example expressions of quantity include *one-half*, *some*, *all*, and *seventy-five percent*. Let's look at the following subject-verb agreement examples:

- **Correct:** Some of *my friends* **enjoy** scary movies, but most do not.
- **Incorrect:** Some of *my friends* **enjoys** scary movies, but most do not.
- **Correct:** Most of *this book* **is** interesting.
- **Incorrect:** Most of *this book* **are** interesting.

Test your understanding of subject-verb agreement by selecting the right words in the subject-verb agreement questions in the worksheets below. Remember, the most important rule in subject-verb agreement is that the noun after the word *of* should match the action or being word.

### **Additional Subject-Verb Agreement Rules:**

#### **When Actions Come First**

Before you move on to the first subject-verb agreement worksheet, let's get a deeper understanding of what is subject-verb agreement by looking at another common subject-verb agreement error.

The words *here* and *there* can bring chaos to standard sentence order and cause a subject-verb agreement error. To prevent this, ensure that you're following the correct subject-verb agreement definition rules. Do this by checking that your action or being word matches the subject. Here are some subject-verb agreement examples:

- There ***is*** not any ***Halloween candy*** left; you ate it all!
- Here ***are*** the ***baseball cards*** you lost yesterday.

Hopefully you can answer the question "what is subject-verb agreement" and are ready to jump into the subject-verb agreement worksheets below. The worksheets will give you good subject-verb agreement practice and will test how much you truly know.

#### **Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheets**

Are you looking for subject-verb agreement worksheets to better understand what is subject-verb agreement? Print this page as a PDF and use it to check your understanding on what is a subject-verb agreement and rules related to subject verb. Check your scores at the end of subject-verb agreement worksheets and refer to the subject-verb agreement PDF for guidance.

**Instructions:** For every question in the subject-verb agreement worksheet, there are two choices. Select the one you think is correct. Use the subject-verb knowledge you gained from reading this guide and the subject-verb agreement practice sentences.

## **Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheet #1**

1A. Jenny enjoys eating.

1B. Jenny enjoy eating.

2A. Bill and Tommy plays soccer together.

2B. Bill and Tommy play soccer together.

3A. That bag of grapes are a healthy snack.

3B. That bag of grapes is a healthy snack.

4A. Either my parrot or my turtle are sick.

4B. Either my parrot or my turtle is sick.

5A. Neither my pizza nor my burger is good as leftovers.

5B. Neither my pizza nor my burger are good as leftovers.

## **Subject-Verb Agreement Worksheet #2**

6A. A whale and a shark swims right next to my boat.

6B. A whale and a shark swim right next to my boat.

7A. My lemonade, as well as my sandwich, is frozen.

7B. My lemonade, as well as my sandwich, are frozen.

8A. Twelves are the shoe size I wear.

8B. Twelves is the shoe size I wear.



9A. Most of my family is on vacation.

9B. Most of my family are on vacation.

10A. I wish my friend Alex were here.

10B. I wish my friend Alex was here.

How well did you do these subject-verb agreement worksheets?

To keep subject-verb agreement errors at bay, use the subject-verb agreement worksheets above and try other subject-verb agreement practice questions. You can probably find a well-prepared subject-verb agreement PDF of good exercises online. The perk of having a subject-verb agreement PDF is that you can print it and highlight any important points related to subject verb or even subject-verb-object order.

*Subject-verb agreement worksheet answers : 1A, 2B, 3B, 4B, 5A, 6B, 7A, 8B, 9A & 9B, 10A.*

### **Some more important sentences of Subject Verb Agreement.**

1. Annie and her brothers **are** at school.

2. Either my mother or my father **is** coming to the meeting.

3. The dog or the cats **are** outside.

4. Either my shoes or your coat **is** always on the floor.

5. George and Tamara **don't** want to see that movie.

6. Benito **doesn't** know the answer.

7. One of my sisters **is** going on a trip to France.

8. The man with all the birds **lives** on my street.

9. The movie, including all the previews, **takes** about two hours to watch.

10. The players, as well as the captain, **want** to win.
11. Either answer **is** acceptable.
12. Every one of those books **is** fiction.
13. Nobody **knows** the trouble I've seen.
14. **Is** the news on at five or six?
15. Mathematics **is** John's favorite subject, while Civics **is** Andrea's favorite subject.
16. Eight dollars **is** the price of a movie these days.
17. **Are** the tweezers in this drawer?
18. Your pants **are** at the cleaner's.
19. There **were** fifteen candies in that bag. Now there **is** only one left!
20. The committee **debates** these questions carefully.
21. The committee members **lead** very different lives in private.
22. The Prime Minister, together with his wife, **greet**s the press cordially.
23. All of the CDs, even the scratched one, **are** in this case.

### **What Is a Part of Speech?**

A part of speech can be defined as a group in which a word is allocated to, based on its syntactic functions. We have eight parts of speech in the English language. These are **noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, adverb, preposition, conjunction, and interjection**. The purpose of a part of speech is to denote the functions of a word in a sentence regarding its meaning and grammar.

It should be noted that, depending on how a word is used, it can fall into more than one part of speech. It is therefore very important to get to understand the different parts of speech especially when you want to define the meaning of words as used in a sentence.

## **The Existing Different Parts of Speech**

Having mentioned the definition of parts of speech, let's have an in-depth look at the various types of speech present in the English language. As mentioned above, we have eight parts of speech in English.

### **Nouns**

A noun is any word that describes a person, thing or place. The function of a noun in a sentence is to provide answers to the basic question, who or what is involved.

**For example:**

1. The cat jumped over the wall.
2. In this sentence, we have two nouns, the cat, and the wall.

The following are some of the list of characteristics of nouns:

- Nouns can either be abstract or concrete
- Either proper or common
- Either singular or plural
- Some nouns are collective

### **Abstract vs. Concrete nouns**

A concrete noun is a noun that can be touched or seen. For example, in the example above we have a cat and a wall.

On the other hand, an abstract noun is something intangible; it cannot be seen or touched.

**For example:**

1. She was looking for love
2. Integrity is an important virtue
3. Love and integrity cannot be seen or touched making them abstract nouns.

### **4. Proper vs. Common nouns**

5. Proper nouns are the ones that denote a particular place, person, thing, or idea. The first letter of a proper noun should be capitalized.

6. Common nouns refer to a type of thing or a whole class. Their first letters are therefore not capitalized.

### 7. **Examples**

8. Hopkins hospital is an important hospital
9. Manchester United football club is a very popular club

## **Singular vs. Plural nouns**

Majority of the nouns can be transformed to plural form by either adding s or es. For example, the girl becomes girls, and the box becomes boxes. Other nouns take irregular form in plural such as child becomes children, man becomes men and person changes to people.

### **Example in sentences:**

A child is very important in a society

Children are very important in a society

A man should be responsible for his actions

Men ought to be responsible for their actions.

Note: Other nouns maintain the same format in both singular and plural form.

## **Collective nouns**

These are nouns that name a group of items or things. Usually, they take the single form yet they refer to a group of things. The reason behind this is because the members act in unison.

### **For example:**

The choir performed a nice song.

In some cases, collective nouns may be used to refer to a group which is not united or in other words have different independent opinions or actions towards something. This case, therefore, requires the collective noun to be handled in plural so that it can bring out the differences among the members of the group.

**For example:**

The juries were not able to agree on the judgement.

## **Pronouns**

A pronoun is a word that usually replaces a noun when they are not used in a sentence.

**For example:**

She is married.

In this case, she is our pronoun.

Just like nouns, pronouns can either be subjects or objects in any sentence.

**For example:**

He had arranged to surprise him

Here we have he and him as the pronouns. He is the subject in this sentence while he takes the place of the object.

All the pronouns have their object form. The following are some of the pronouns in both their subject and object form.

• Subject	Object
I	Me
We	Us
She	Her

He      Him

You      You

Apart from personal pronouns, here are examples of some other common pronouns:

- **Possessive pronouns**

Mine, his, hers, yours, ours theirs

The white dog is ours

- **Reflexive pronouns**

myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself, oneself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves

He cut himself while playing with the knife

- **Reciprocal pronouns**

each other, one another

They love each other

- **Relative pronouns**

that, which, who, whose, whom, where, when

The car that you bought is nice

- **Demonstrative pronouns**

this, that, these, those

This is a bright color

- **Interrogative pronouns**

who, what, why, where, when, whatever

When are you going home?

- **Indefinite pronouns**

anything, anybody, anyone, something, somebody, someone, nothing, nobody, none, no one

There is no one in class

## **Articles**

These are words that come before a noun in a sentence. They include a, an, and the.

### **For example:**

The class is too small for you

An apple a day keeps the doctor away

In our examples above, we can see that the articles precede the noun phrases.

- **Adjectives**

An adjective is a word that is usually used to describe a pronoun or noun. Adjectives are usually used before a noun or in some case they may come after a reflective verb.

### **For example:**

1. He is very smart in class
2. We live in the hottest town in the country

In our first example, the adjective very smart follows the reflective verb is and it is used to describe our subject she.

The second example, hottest is the adjective describing the noun town.

- **Verbs**

A verb is a doing word, that is a word that shows a state of being or action in a sentence.

### **For example:**

1. Albert walks to school
2. Peter was a passionate reader

In the first example, the verb 'is walks' which describe the action of the subject, Albert. In the second example, our verb is; was, and it is in the sentence to describe the state of being of passionate making it a verb.

A sentence can have some verbs, or a verb phrase can carry both the verb and the helping verb.

### **For example:**

1. She drunk tea while reading the book
2. Peter was cooking when I visited him.

In the first example, our subject is performing two actions, that is drunk and reading

The second example has a verb phrase which has a verb and a helping verb.

In some sentences, you can have some words which look like verbs, but they are not necessarily verbs as they perform different functions. Such verbs are known as verbals.

### **Types of verbs**

1. Action verbs – They show specific actions.
2. Transitive verbs – These are verbs that indicate activities that are doable. They usually go with direct objects
3. Intransitive verbs – These are action verbs that also show possible activities but are not followed by direct verbs d. Auxiliary verbs. They are also referred to as helping verbs; they usually go with the main verb to portray the tense of the verb, the negative nature or to develop a question.
4. Irregular verbs – These are verbs that don't follow a regular pattern regarding spelling change with different tense changes.
5. Phrasal verbs – These are a combination of words that work together to modify the central verb.
6. Modal verbs – These are auxiliary verbs whose main purpose is to show obligations, abilities, permissions or possibility
7. Stative verbs – These are verbs that mainly relate to states of being, thoughts, relationships, emotions, senses and measurements.

- **Adverbs**



The same adjectives give more information about nouns; adverbs also describe the verbs further. Modifiers can also be used to describe attributes. In most cases, adverbs end in -ly.

**For example:**

1. He smiled widely when he saw her
2. The sun is scorching today

In case one, we have extensively as the adverb that modifies the verb smiled and in example two, extremely is the adverb that modifies the adjectives hot which gives information about the noun sun. As mentioned earlier, the nouns give answers to the questions what or who. In this case, the adverbs answer the questions why, how, when and where.

Let's look at the basic types of adverbs:

There are five main types of adverbs; manner, time, place, frequency and degree.

- **Adverbs of time**

Adverbs of time give more information on when the action takes place. They are usually placed at the beginning or the end of a sentence. If it is very important to state the moment the action took place, then the adverb of time should be placed at the beginning of the sentence.

Examples of adverbs of time include:

Just, lately, always during, recently, soon, yet, sometimes, so far, usually, during

I recently bought a new house

Soon, I will finish school.

So far, we have covered 12 miles.

- **Adverbs of place**

This tells where the action is taking place or happening. They usually come after the main verb, or the noun being referred to or at the end of the sentence.

## **Examples include:**

here, there, nowhere, everywhere, out, in, above, below, inside, outside, into

This morning was so cold, mist-covered almost everywhere.

- **Adverbs of manner**

This tells how the verb is performed or done. These are the most common types of adverbs. Most of these adverbs end with –ly, making them very easy to spot

Examples of adverbs of manner: kindly, slowly, calmly, neatly, loudly, sadly, quickly, politely, lazily

1. She walked lazily to class
2. He spoke kindly to the children

The young girl knows how to fold her clothes neatly.

- **Adverbs of degree**

These adverbs show the level of intensity of an adjective, verb or another adverb in the sentence.

## **Examples of these adverbs are:**

So, hardly, simply, almost, quite, nearly, too, just, enough

It is quite obvious that she loves him

I need a brief nap and I will be ok

I am so happy to see you once again.

- **Adverbs of frequency**

These adverbs give information on how often the verb repeats itself. They usually come before just before the main verb in the sentence.

### **Some examples of adverbs of frequency are:**

Sometimes, never, rarely, always, normally, again, usually, seldom

I rarely party these days

I seldom go for take away foods. I prefer cooking.

I sometimes think arguing is a waste of time.

## **Conjunctions**

A conjunction is a joining word and it, therefore, brings together either two sentences or independent clauses.

### **For example:**

The students are supposed to take chemistry and physics

Peter aspires to travel to France, so he needs to learn the French language.

In our first example, we have and as the conjunction that brings together chemistry and physics.

In the second example, so is the conjunction that joins two complete sentences. It has been supported by a comma.

### **Examples of conjunctions include:**

And, so, for, nor, or yet, but

## **Prepositions**

Prepositions are words that work in conjunction with either a pronoun or a noun to come up with phrases that can be used to describe verbs, adjectives or nouns/pronouns. The purpose of prepositional phrases is to either give a directional, temporal or spatial meaning.

**For example:**

Paul climbed up the ladder against the house.

In this sentence, we have two prepositional phrases:

Up the ladder- this is an adverbial phrase since it has been used to verb climbed.

Against the house – this is a proposition that describes the noun house; it tells the ladder was against the house.

**Some examples of prepositions are:**

Aboard, about, above, across, after, against, along, amid, among, around, at, before, behind, below, beneath, besides, between, beyond, by, down, during, except, for, from, in, into, like, near, of, off, on, onto, out, over, past, since, throughout, to, toward, under, underneath, until, unto, up, upon, with, within, without.

With this guide you are sure to classify different parts of speech and understand them.