

UNIT 6.1 SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

positive statements

Look at the A and B sentences below. Find out why B is correct and A is wrong in the Grammar Points section.

GRAMMAR POINTS

1A	Nigel in that shop.	X	
1B	Nigel is in that shop.	✓	1
2A	My cousins visits me on Fridays.	X	
2B	My cousins visit me on Fridays.	✓	2
3A	The furniture are on sale.	X	
3B	The furniture is on sale.	✓	3
4A	His diary and pen is in that drawer.	X	
4B	His diary and pen are in that drawer.	✓	4

CHECKPOINT

GRAMMAR POINTS

- 1 Every sentence must have a subject and a verb. The subject can be a noun or a pronoun.

EXAMPLES: Adam **cooks** every Sunday.

noun subject verb

They **play** tennis every weekend.

pronoun subject verb

- 2 We use singular verbs for singular subjects and plural verbs for plural subjects.

EXAMPLES:

My neighbour **takes** the bus to school.

singular subject singular verb

My neighbours **take** the bus to school.

plural subject plural verb

The ladder **is** against the wall.

singular subject singular verb

The ladders **are** against the wall.

plural subject plural verb

REMEMBER!

- The verb usually states what a subject is or does.

EXAMPLES:

Julia **swims** twice a week. (what she does)

subject verb

Julia **is** my best friend. (what she is)

subject verb

- The two basic types of verbs are main verbs and auxiliary verbs. The majority of verbs are main verbs. Auxiliary verbs are a small group of verbs including 'to be', 'to do', 'to have', **can**, **may**, etc. An auxiliary verb is also known as a 'helping verb'. It is used in combination with a main verb; it cannot stand on its own in a sentence.

EXAMPLE: I **will wash** the dishes after dinner.

auxiliary verb main verb

- The verbs 'to be', 'to do' and 'to have' can be used as main verbs as well as auxiliary verbs.

EXAMPLES:

My uncle **is** a computer engineer.

('to be' as main verb)

My uncle **is visiting** us this weekend.

('to be' as auxiliary verb)

Take note that the singular pronouns **I** and **you** are the only exceptions as they do not make use of singular verb forms.

EXAMPLES: **I take** the bus to school.

singular subject

I am in the first class.

singular subject

You take the bus to school.

singular subject

You are in the first class.

singular subject

3 Uncountable nouns take singular verb forms.

EXAMPLES: The rice **is** in the pot.
The news **is** shocking.

4 Two or more subjects joined by **and** always take a plural verb.

EXAMPLE: Bob **goes** fishing once a month.

subject verb

Bob and Helen **go** fishing once a month.

subjects verb

PRACTICE A Tick the correct sentences.

- 1 Michael call for his mother.
- 2 The paint is still wet.
- 3 My mother cooks chicken every Sunday.
- 4 The monkey jump from branch to branch.
- 5 The charity ask for a contribution.
- 6 He always helps his classmates.
- 7 Mr and Mrs Chang are here.
- 8 Anna is my best friend.
- 9 I cleans the room every morning.
- 10 These boxes belongs to the Art Club.



PRACTICE B Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the boxes.

- 1 Michael _____ every morning.
- 2 It _____ heavily every day.
- 3 The fish curry _____ hot.
- 4 Kitty _____ biscuits.
- 5 Pat and her brother _____ badminton champions.
- 6 We _____ new shoes.
- 7 The club members _____ the sanctuary every month.
- 8 Allen _____ in a soap factory.
- 9 These farmers _____ fruit and vegetables.
- 10 The children _____ table tennis on Saturdays.

exercise
rain
be
like
be
need
visit
work
grow
play



PRACTICE

C

Cross out the incorrect verb forms to complete the sentences.

- 1 The manager and his staff is are attending an important meeting.
- 2 Both Alex and Shanta participate participates in outdoor sports.
- 3 The antelopes is are climbing the hill slopes.
- 4 Simon has have a pilot's licence and will be joining a commercial airline soon.
- 5 The latest information on cancer treatment was were on the nine o'clock news today.
- 6 The Minister intend intends to set up more youth centres.
- 7 Peter and his wife do does the housework and laundry on Saturdays.
- 8 The national hockey team and their coach return returns home tomorrow from Delhi.
- 9 Hurricanes cause causes great damage in the coastal areas of our country.
- 10 Many women today work works outside the home.



PRACTICE

D

Some of the underlined verbs have been wrongly used. Write the correct words in the spaces provided.

- 1 My parents hope to buy a cottage by the sea. _____
- 2 Phil's car require a lot of repair and maintenance. _____
- 3 His trousers are torn and need to be mended. _____
- 4 The dairy cattle roams in the pasture for long hours in the summer. _____
- 5 Technology make life easier for people throughout the world. _____
- 6 The grapes are ripe and are ready to be picked. _____
- 7 Wheat and rye are nutritious cereals. _____
- 8 The primary schoolchildren wait here for their bus every morning. _____
- 9 Sheep-rearing are a major occupation in New Zealand. _____
- 10 The election results was a surprise to everyone. _____



PRACTICE E

Circle the letters of the correct sentences. There may be more than one answer for each question.

- 1 A Brian am at the bank now.
B Brian is at the bank now.
C Brian at the bank now.
- 2 A My friends and I cycle to the park every Sunday.
B My friends and I cycles to the park every Sunday.
C My friends and I are cycled to the park every Sunday.
- 3 A Oil spills in the oceans endangers fish and marine life.
B Oil spills in the oceans endanger fish and marine life.
C Oil spills in the oceans endangered fish and marine life.
- 4 A The food at the wedding is insufficient.
B The food at the wedding are insufficient.
C The food at the wedding was insufficient.
- 5 A The machinery in this factory are out of date.
B The machinery in this factory is out of date.
C The machinery in this factory was out of date.
- 6 A The plantation workers want fairer wages.
B The plantation workers wants fairer wages.
C The plantation worker wants fairer wages.



PRACTICE F

Rewrite the paragraph and use the verbs in the box to complete it.

call carries causes cuts falls wear

Strong winds and rain down rocks and reduce them to gravel. When rain on the bare earth, it the gravel into streams and rivers. As a river meanders, the gravel the sides of the riverbank. This the river to widen. We this process 'Erosion'.

Strong winds and rain wear down rocks and reduce them to gravel.



UNIT 6.2 SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

negative statements

Look at the A and B sentences below. Find out why B is correct and A is wrong in the Grammar Points section.



		GRAMMAR POINTS	
1A	She don't know Richard.	X	
1B	She doesn't know Richard.	✓	1
2A	Those workers isn't technicians.	X	
2B	Those workers aren't technicians.	✓	2
3A	I amn't sleepy.	X	
3B	I'm not sleepy.	✓	3
4A	Carrie and he isn't cousins.	X	
4B	Carrie and he aren't cousins.	✓	4



GRAMMAR POINTS

- 1 We form the negative of most verbs by adding **doesn't** or **don't** before the verb.
 - (a) For a singular subject, we add **doesn't** and change the verb to its base form:
 EXAMPLES: Pat **likes** dancing. → Pat **doesn't like** dancing.
 She **needs** paper clips. → She **doesn't need** paper clips.
 - (b) For a plural subject, and the singular pronouns **I** and **you**, we add **don't**:
 EXAMPLES: My sisters **like** dancing. → My sisters **don't like** dancing.
 We **need** paper clips. → We **don't need** paper clips.
- 2 We form the negative of the verb 'to be' by changing it to **isn't** or **aren't**.
 - (a) For a singular subject, we change the verb to **isn't**:
 EXAMPLES: Sandra **is** in school today. → Sandra **isn't** in school today.
 It **is** in Joe's briefcase. → It **isn't** in Joe's briefcase.
 - (b) For a plural subject and the singular pronoun **you**, we change the verb to **aren't**:
 EXAMPLES: The twins **are** in school today. → The twins **aren't** in school today.
 You **are** the second contestant. → You **aren't** the second contestant.
- 3 For the singular pronoun **I**, we form the negative of the verb 'to be' like this:
 EXAMPLES: I **am** tired. → I **am not** tired. / **I'm not** tired.
 I **am** at the airport now. → I **am not** at the airport now. / **I'm not** at the airport now.
Ain't should not be used as a contracted form of **am not**.
- 4 Two or more subjects joined by **and** always take **don't** or **aren't** in negative statements:
 EXAMPLES: She and I **are** good friends. → She and I **aren't** good friends.
 Anna, Eve and Kim **study** together. → Anna, Eve and Kim **don't study** together.

PRACTICE

- 1 Anita
ciner
- 2 We
- 3 She
- 4 My m
the A
- 5 Thos
- 6 He
- 7 Lewis
- 8 He
- 9 Cypri
- 10 Spide

PRACTICE

- 1 Is Gre
Greta
- 2 Are th
- 3 Do yo
- 4 Does F
- 5 Do the
- 6 Are the

REMEMBER!

- **Doesn't** is the contracted form of **does not**, and **don't** is the contracted form of **do not**.
- **Wasn't** is the contracted form of **was not**, and **weren't** is the contracted form of **were not**.
- The base form of a verb is the simplest form, without any letters added to the end. It is similar to the plural form of the verb in the present tense.

EXAMPLES:	base form	singular	past tense
	talk	talks	talked
	wash	washes	washed
	take	takes	took
	do	does	did

PRACTICE A Use the correct verbs in the boxes to complete the sentences.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1 Anita and Steven _____ in. They were at the cinema. | wasn't / weren't |
| 2 We _____ in town. We live in the suburbs. | doesn't live / don't live |
| 3 She _____ TV every day. | doesn't watch / doesn't watches |
| 4 My mother and my aunt _____ members of the Art Society. | aren't / isn't |
| 5 Those ships from Rio _____ passengers. | doesn't carry / don't carry |
| 6 He _____ pleased with his English test marks. | wasn't / weren't |
| 7 Lewis _____ a timid child. | aren't / isn't |
| 8 He _____ Tamil. | doesn't speak / don't speak |
| 9 Cyprus and Sicily _____ in Asia. | aren't / isn't |
| 10 Spiders _____ six legs. They have eight legs. | don't has / don't have |

PRACTICE B Write negative statements in answer to the questions.

- 1 Is Greta the president of the science club?
Greta isn't the president of the science club.

- 2 Are they working on the project now?

- 3 Do you know that the concert is on tonight?

- 4 Does Bill like the way she sings?

- 5 Do the players need more refreshments?

- 6 Are the secretaries interested in the lunchtime fashion show?



PRACTICE C Fill in the blanks with the negative forms of the words in the brackets.

- 1 We aren't going to the performance. (go)
- 2 You _____ present in school yesterday. (be)
- 3 The customers are unhappy. They _____ the bad food in the restaurant. (like)
- 4 Steve _____ keen on golf. He prefers tennis. (be)
- 5 The child has a terrible toothache but she _____ to go to the dentist. (want)
- 6 Judith and her mother _____ in France now. They will be there next week. (be)
- 7 Maria _____ happy with the new duties she has been given. (be)
- 8 I _____ the address of that veterinary clinic but Janet has it. (have)
- 9 Jill _____ told of the changes in the exam timetable and so she missed the Geography paper. (be)
- 10 The chairman _____ the meeting now. He will do it this afternoon. (conduct)
- 11 Mrs Roberts _____ to work because she gets a lift from her neighbour. (drive)



PRACTICE D Complete the dialogue with negative statements.

- A: You play tennis very well.
B: I (not) play as well as my brother.
- 1 I don't play as well as my brother.
 - 2 _____
 - A: Is your brother a member of this club?
B: He (not).
 - 3 _____
 - A: Does he take part in tournaments?
B: He (not) like to take part in tournaments.
 - 4 _____
 - I get nervous. Those two players over there are never nervous and they're very good.
 - A: They (not) better than you.
 - 5 _____
 - B: They're confident but I (not).
 - 6 _____



PRACTICE E Fill in the blanks with the negative forms of the words in the brackets.

Vijay and Arun are brothers. Vijay prefers to stay at home. He (1) _____ (be) an outgoing person and he (2) _____ (have) many friends. He (3) _____ (play) football and he (4) _____ (have) an interest in swimming. He spends hours on the computer. Sometimes he plays chess with his father. He finds the chess challenging.

His brother Arun is sociable and enjoys going out with his friends. He (5) _____ (like) to stay at home alone. He also swims and plays football. Arun (6) _____ (believe) in sitting in front of the computer for too long. He and his friends (7) _____ (be) interested in chess. They (8) _____ (understand) how a teenager like Vijay prefers to stay at home.

The boys' parents agree that the two of them (9) _____ (be) the same. They (10) _____ (worry) about the differences in their personalities. They accept them for who they are.



PRACTICE F Some of the underlined verbs have been wrongly used. Write the correct words in the spaces provided.

- 1 Michael aren't happy with the food at the students' hostel.
- 2 The mayor and his team isn't visiting the flood victims tonight.
- 3 Betty and I don't know why the accident happened.
- 4 Economics isn't an easy subject to understand. It consists of complicated theories and their application.
- 5 The children don't like the type of car their father wants to buy.
- 6 The basketball players doesn't have any practice tomorrow as their coach is ill.
- 7 She doesn't realise how important it is to follow the instructions exactly.
- 8 Eddy and Patrick aren't attending the function tonight.
- 9 He doesn't remembered where he put the important letter.
- 10 She dropped the tin of baking powder. The lid came off and there were baking powder all over the floor.



UNIT 6.3 SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

positive questions

Look at the A and B sentences below. Find out why B is correct and A is wrong in the Grammar Points section.



			GRAMMAR POINTS
1A	He is hungry?	X	
1B	Is he hungry?	✓	1
2A	Is Ken and Tim in the library?	X	
2B	Are Ken and Tim in the library?	✓	2
3A	Does she knows the time?	X	
3B	Does she know the time?	✓	3



GRAMMAR POINTS

- 1** Statements are sentences which give us information. Questions are sentences which ask the listener to give information. We normally do not make use of the statement form when asking for information. We use the question form.

EXAMPLES: Statements

That is your car.
They are coming.

Questions

Is that your car?
Are they coming?

- 2** We form questions with the verb 'to be' by placing the verb before the subject. Compare this to the statement form where the subject comes before the verb 'to be'.

EXAMPLES: Statements

Subject + verb 'to be'
Sammy is in your class.
The tools are in the box.

Questions

Verb 'to be' + subject
Is Sammy in your class?
Are the tools in the box?

Singular subjects take the verb **is**, except for the singular pronouns **I** and **you** which take **am** and **are** respectively. Plural subjects take the verb **are**.

- 3** We can form questions with most verbs by changing the verb to its base form, and adding the verb 'to do' before the subject.

(a) For a singular subject, we add the verb **does** before the subject.

EXAMPLES: Statements

Subject + verb
Julie sings classical songs.
He enjoys swimming.

Questions

Does + subject + base form of verb
Does Julie sing classical songs?
Does he enjoy swimming?

- (b) For a plural subject, and the singular pronouns **I** and **you**, we add the verb **do** before the subject.

EXAMPLES: **Statements**

Subject + verb

*The ladies **sing** classical songs.*

*They **enjoy** swimming.*

Questions

Do + subject + base form of verb

Do *the ladies* **sing** classical songs?

Do *they* **enjoy** swimming?

PRACTICE A Tick the correct boxes to complete the questions.

- 1

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does

 she

<input type="checkbox"/>	enjoy
<input type="checkbox"/>	enjoys

 needlework?

- 2

<input type="checkbox"/>	Is
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are

 you comfortable?

- 3

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does

 he

<input type="checkbox"/>	has
<input type="checkbox"/>	have

 your address?

- 4

<input type="checkbox"/>	Is
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are

 that pen yours?

- 5

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does

 we

<input type="checkbox"/>	has
<input type="checkbox"/>	have

 to go now?

- 6

<input type="checkbox"/>	Do
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does

 they

<input type="checkbox"/>	has
<input type="checkbox"/>	have

 their notebooks with them?



PRACTICE B Complete the questions with the correct words in the boxes.

- 1 Do _____ need a lift?

Eric / Eric and Paul

- 2 Are _____ afraid of being alone?

he / you

- 3 Does _____ perform every night?

that band / those bands

- 4 Is _____ in the boot of the car?

it / they

- 5 Do _____ have to go now?

I / she

- 6 Is _____ at home?

your brother / your brothers

- 7 Are _____ ready to vote?

the committee / the committee members

- 8 Do _____ belong to that gentleman?

this suitcase / these suitcases

- 9 Are _____ on the right road?

she / we

- 10 Does _____ begin at 6 p.m.?

the parade / the parades



PRACTICE C Rearrange the words to form questions.

1 does — like — Richard — tea?

Does Richard like tea?

2 cousins — do — have — pets — your?

3 cut — does — grass — himself — Joe — the?

4 a — chess — club — is — Jerry — member — of — the?

5 and — fruit — cake — do — Harry — like — Vanessa?

6 are — children — in — park — the — the?



PRACTICE D Complete the conversation using the words in the box. Each word may be used more than once.

is am are do does

Police : (1) _____ you realise you did not stop at the traffic lights?

Driver : I can't believe I did that.

Police : (2) _____ you have your driving licence with you?

Driver : (3) _____ you want it right now?

Police : (4) _____ it with you or not?

Driver : (5) _____ I in trouble, officer?

Police : Let me see. (6) _____ your brake lights work? I notice that they didn't work just now.

Driver : Nobody told me that. (7) _____ you sure?

Police : (8) _____ you arguing with me? That's an offence too.

Driver : This is not my car. Actually, ...

Police : (9) _____ this a stolen car, then?

Driver : This is my wife's car.

Police : (10) _____ she know you borrowed it? If she doesn't, she might have reported it stolen.

Driver : Good grief! It's just not my day. Please give me a ticket, officer.



PRACTICE E Change the following statements into questions.

1 She likes dairy products.

Does she like dairy products?

2 This is their first visit to Paris.

3 There are many good restaurants in this area.

4 Ken and Eva own a bakery.

5 Anita has a college degree.

6 Those factories observe laws on the environment.



PRACTICE F Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verb 'to be' or 'to do'.

Lawyer : Mrs Marshall, (1) _____ you _____ (know) the defendant Mr Rubin?

Mrs Marshall : Yes. He lives next door to me.

Lawyer : (2) _____ (be) he a well-mannered person?

Mrs Marshall : Yes. He is very polite.

Lawyer : (3) _____ he _____ (treat) his household well?

Mrs Marshall : Yes, he does. There are times, though, when he and his brother quarrel.

Lawyer : You said that on the evening of June 8 you saw Mr Rubin chasing his brother with a bat.

(4) _____ you _____ (watch) your neighbours all the time?

Mrs Marshall : I don't watch them all the time. I happened to be in the garden when I saw them.

Lawyer : (5) _____ (be) you sure that Mr Rubin wasn't playing a game with his family?

(6) _____ you _____ (think) one of the children could have done it?

Mrs Marshall : No. They're too young.

Lawyer : (7) _____ (be) the son John taller than his uncle?

Mrs Marshall : Yes, he is but he's a very gentle boy. He didn't hit his uncle. Mr Rubin must have done it.

Lawyer : In other words, you didn't see Mr Rubin hit his brother. (8) _____ (be) I right?

Mrs Marshall : I didn't see him do it.

Lawyer : (9) _____ you _____ (realise) what you just said? You jumped to conclusions, Mrs Marshall. (10) _____ (be) you certain that you saw Mr Rubin hit his brother?

Mrs Marshall : No, I'm not sure that he did it.

