

## J2 GRAMMAR: REVISION

### SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT

Study the following sentences. What do you observe about the subject and the verb in each sentence?

1. Everybody in the room **is** ready for the presentation.  
(Indefinite pronouns such as **each, everyone, anyone, someone, etc.** use singular verbs)
2. My **family has lived** in this neighbourhood for the past forty years.  
(A collective noun which is considered as a unit uses a singular verb.)
3. My **family have** decided to take an early vacation.  
(A collective noun which refers to individuals uses a plural verb.)
4. A **group of us are** visiting the museum this weekend.  
(Singular quantifying expressions, such as **a group of, a majority of, a number of,** with plural nouns and pronouns, take plural verbs.)

**Note:** 'The number' always takes a singular verb.  
**The number** of cars in the park **is** twenty.

#### Note:

The following subjects take singular verbs: (a) subjects which include calculations and measurements, percentages, fractions, (b) the expressions **one of**, and **more than one**, (c) **two nouns used as a singular idea**.

Here are some examples:

- Six times five **is** thirty.
- One of the workers **was** responsible for operating the machine.
- More than one person **is** responsible for the excellent job.
- Fish and chips **is** becoming a popular dish in our country.
- Two thirds of a ton **is** fairly light for a crane to lift.

#### Application:

1. *Select the correct verb to complete each of the following sentences.*
  - a) The number of voters (**is, are**) declining every five years.
  - b) The government (**is, are**) very popular because its policies (**help, helps**) all groups in the society.
  - c) One of my classmates (**is, are receiving**) an award for the best art piece on global warming.
  - d) Two hundred dollars (**is, are**) a considerable sum of money to spend on a blouse.
  - e) A number of people (**has, have**) spoken to government ministers about the steep rise in food prices.
  - f) The range of goods and services (**give, gives**) the company a competitive edge.
  - g) Fifty percent of the job (**was, were**) completed by the scheduled date.
  - h) Everyone (**is, are**) invited to attend the opening of the new community centre.
  - i) The majority of candidates (**has, have**) made promises to the electorate.
  - j) The jury (**was, were**) unable to give a verdict.