

REVISION: GRAMMAR

SUBJECT - VERB AGREEMENT

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

1. The vendor **sells** in the market. (*A singular subject agrees with a singular verb.*)
2. The teacher and the student **are** good friends. (*Two or more subjects joined by **and** use a plural verb.*)
 - a. Either your brothers or your cousin **plans** to accompany us.
 - b. Neither the principal nor the teachers **agree** with you.
(*When two subjects are joined by **either ... or** or **neither ... nor**, the verb agrees with the subject nearer to it.*)
3. The senator, as well as members of the police service, **was attending** the national event.
(*When a singular noun phrase is linked to another noun phrase by prepositions such as '**with**', '**as well as**' and '**in addition to**', the subject is singular. The verb that follows is therefore singular in form.*)

Application:

Select the correct verb to complete each of the following sentences:

1. Neither the parents nor their child (**visit, visits**) the village where they used to live.
2. Roger and Pat carefully (**chooses, choose**) the places they visit.
3. He and she (**has been, have been**) friends since childhood.
4. My brother and I (**works, work**) in the nearby pharmacy on evenings.
5. The student, together with his companions, (**was, were**) planning a hike up the hill.
6. Hard work and study (**was/were**) responsible for our success.
7. (**Was/Were**) your clothes and your money stolen from the room?
8. Neither the teacher nor the students (**was/were**) in the room at the time of the incident.
9. His teacher, as well as the students of his class, (**is/are**) planning a field trip.
10. Either two short writing tasks or one lengthy assignment (**is, are**) to be submitted by Friday.