

Subject verb agreement

- What is subject and verb in the sentence
- How to identify subject and verb in the sentence
- What exactly is subject verb agreement
- Basic rules surrounding it

Subject: who is performing action?

Person, place, thing or idea that is doing or being something

Verb: what subject is performing?

Action performed by the subject or state of being

Example

Ajay plays cricket regularly

Verb



State of being :
Is, Feels



Action : Run, Play

Example : Action Verb

Keerti reads book regularly
Superman is flying in the sky

Example: State of being

I am a boy
He is a policeman

Verbs



Auxiliary verb

They give meaning to main verb

They can't stand alone

Example:

Is, has, do, did, will, shall, may, can, could

Main Verb : words that actually shows the action or activity of subject

They can stand alone

Example: Read, sleep, eat, Run

Example of AU.

Bus may stop

They must eat

Qualities of Verb

1. Change depending on subject (I , II, III person)
2. Change depending upon time

Example: Subject

- 1) I am tall
- 2) You are tall
- 3) She is tall

Example: Time

- 1) Mary comes late
- 2) Mary came here yesterday
- 3) Mary will come here tomorrow

Forms of Verb

Base form

Past participle

Past form

Sing

Sang

Sung

- 4) s/es Form = Base form+ s/es = sings
- 5) Ing form = Base form+ ing = singing

**Based on point of view
Subject will be**

First person : I, We

Second person : You

Third person : He, She, It, They

Based on count : Singular/ plural

Subject verb Agreement

For making a sentence grammatically correct a Verb must agree with its subject in number

When subject is in third person

SINGULAR SUBJECT → **SINGULAR VERB**

PLURAL SUBJECT → **SINGULAR VERB**

Examples: Subject is singular

That monkey eats banana

This car goes fast

Examples: Subject is Plural

Those monkeys eat bananas

These cars go fast

Subject is not in third person

I read newspaper regularly

I : singular

Read : plural

We read newspaper regularly

We: plural

Read : plural

12 Important rules of subject verb agreement

Rule1 : Two singular subjects connected by 'and' require a plural verb

Example : Gold and silver are precious metal.

Exception:

Noun → One idea to the mind
or
Same person or thing

Example:

Bread and butter is his only food

Time and tide waits for none

The creator and producer is arriving soon (both refer to the same person)

Rule 2 : When Two or more singular subjects joined by 'or' or 'nor' require singular verb

Sing. Sub + sing. Sub = Sing. Verb

Example:

Neither food nor water was found there

Either the cat or mouse has been there

Sing. Sub + plural Sub. = Plural Verb

Example :

Neither the chairman nor the directors are present (plural subject placed near plural verb)

Rule 3 : Subjects joined by 'or' or 'nor' are of different persons, the verb agrees with the nearer

Subject 1 'or'/'nor' Subject 2 = Verb agrees with 3rd person



2nd person



3rd person

Example: Neither you or he is to be blamed

Either you or I am mistaken

Rule 4:

Either
Neither
Everyone
Many a
Each



**Singular
Verb**

Example:

Everyone of the boys loves to ride the car

Many a man has done so

Exception:

Few, many, several, both, all, some : take plural verb

Rule 5 :

Plural form ← Noun → Singular meaning

Singular Verb

Example:

Mathematics is a subject taught in every school

The news is true

Rule 6:

Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by such words **as along with, as well as, besides, not** etc.

These words and phrases are not the part of the subject. Ignore them and use singular verb with singular subject.

Examples:

The politician, along with the newsmen, is expected shortly.

Excitement, as well as nervousness, is the cause of her shaking.

Rule :7

Use a singular verb with distances, periods of time, sums of money, etc., **when considered a unit.**

Examples:

Three miles is too far to walk

Five years is the maximum sentence for that offence.

Ten dollars is a high price to pay

But

Ten dollars **were** scattered on the floor.

Rule 8:

Some collective nouns, such as family, couple, audience, etc., may take either a singular or a plural noun depending on their use in the sentence.

Examples:

The staff **is** in a meeting

The couple **disagree** about disciplining their child

Rule 9:

The word **were** replaces **was** in sentence that express a wish or are contrary fact.

Examples:

I wish it **were** a Friday

If Sandy **were** here, you'd be sorry

Rule 10:

In sentences beginning with here or there, the true subject follows the verb.

Examples:

There are four hurdles to jump

There is a high price to pay.

Rule 11:

Titles of books, movies, novels etc are treated as singular and take singular verb form.

Example :

The Smurf's is a children's book

The Great Expectations is written by Charles Dickens

Rule 12: Final Rule

Only the subject affects the verb