# 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?

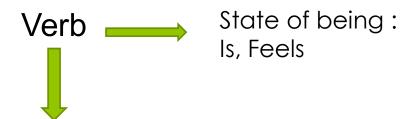
Person, place, thing or idea that is doing or being something

**Verb:** what subject is performing?

Action performed by the subject or state of being

## **Example**

Ajay plays cricket regularly



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



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

## **Auxiliary verb**

They give meaning to main verb They can't stand alone Example: Is, has, do, did, will, shall, may, can, could

## **Qualities of Verb**

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

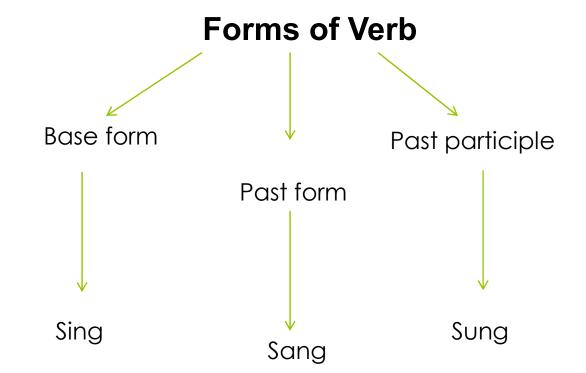
Example: Subject 1) I am tall

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



- 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 3<sup>rd</sup> person

2<sup>nd</sup> person

3<sup>rd</sup> 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