

SUBJECT - VERB AGREEMENT

Identifying Subject and a Verb in a Sentence

- Subject is the person, place or a thing that is performing the action.
- Verb is the action or state of being in a sentence.

- For example:

- Jennifer walked to the store.

- Subject Verb



What is Subject-Verb Agreement(SVA)?

- SVA refers to the relationship between subject and verb of the sentence. Subjects and verbs must always agree in two ways:
 - ☐ Tense
 - ☐ Number

BASIC RULE:

- ❑ Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- ❑ Plural subjects take plural verbs.

For example:

- ✓ The boy plays there everyday.
- ✓ The boys play there everyday.
- ✓ He has two cars.
- ✓ They have two cars.

1. The pronoun “YOU” always takes a plural verb.

Examples:

- You were invited to come.
- You are asked to clean the room.
- You sing so well.



2. If a sentence begins with **HERE** or **THERE**, the verb agrees with the subject which follows it.



Examples:

- Here are the ways on how to preserve meat.
- There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor.



3. If two subjects, one single and one plural, are connected by EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.

Examples:



- Neither the players nor the coach is joining.
- Either the conductor or the singers are attending the concert.



4. A singular subject followed by intervening words or phrases such as WITH, AS WELL AS, IN ADDITION TO, ACCOMPANIED BY, TOGETHER WITH and ***NO LESS THAN, takes a singular verb.***

Examples:

- Jake, accompanied by his sisters, is enrolling in PCC.
- Daddy, as well as my brothers, is enjoying the party.



5. Singular subjects joined by AND require a plural verb, except when they mean one thing.

Examples:

- Larry and Mercy are reading novels.
- My teacher and friend is here.



6. Two singular subjects joined by EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR take a singular verb.

Examples:



- Either Mommy or Daddy is coming with me at the outbound.
- Neither Nancy nor Rocky is waiting for you.



7. If a singular subject is followed by a phrase containing a plural noun, the verb is singular.

Examples:



- One of the boys is yelling so loud.
- One of the members is against the rule.



8. The indefinite pronouns SEVERAL, FEW, BOTH, MANY , OTHERS are ***always plural.***

Examples:

few
pre-few

- Both were asking to be freed.
- Several are seeking justice.



9. The indefinite pronouns SOME, MOST, ALL, NONE are singular or plural according to the meaning of the sentence.

Examples:

NONE
enter

- Some of the girls were absent.
- Some of the ice cream is left.



10. When any of the following indefinite pronouns is the subject, the verb is singular: ~~EVERYBODY, EACH, NOBODY, NEITHER, EVERYTHING, ANYONE, EITHER, NEITHER, EVERYONE, SOMEBODY, SOMEONE.~~



Example:

- Every man and woman in this hall is a member.



11. Expressions of time, money, weight, and distance are singular even if the form

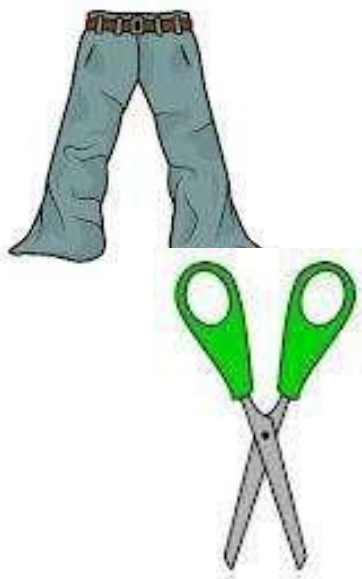
- Examples: is plural.

- Two years is a long time to wait.
- One million dollars was given back to the owner.



12. The following words are always plural: PANTS, TROUSERS, PLIERS, SCISSORS, SHEARS, TONGS, etc. However, if ***the word PAIR is used, the verb is singular.***

Examples:



- The pants are torn into two.
- The pair of scissors was placed on the table.



13. Certain nouns, though plural in form, are singular in meaning and therefore take singular verbs.

Examples:

- Mathematics is my favorite subject.
- The latest news is alarming to the public.



14. When the word is preceded by A, it takes a plural verb. When it is preceded by THE, it takes a singular verb.

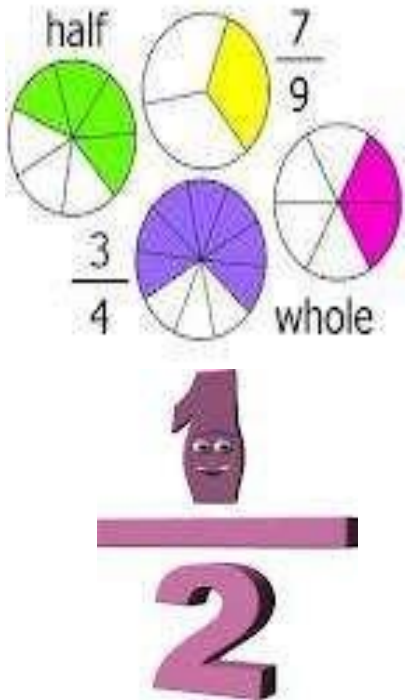
Examples:



- A number of students are waiting outside.
- The number of students outside is not recorded yet.



15. When fractions are used, the verb agrees with the object of the
PHRASE.



Examples:

- One half of the cake was consumed.
- One fourth of the employees were attending the seminar.



17. These nouns may be singular or plural in meaning: ATHLETICS, GENETICS, POLITICS, GYMNASTICS, STATISTICS. When the noun refers to an organized activity, it is singular; when the noun refers to the activities of individuals within a group, or to varied activities, it is plural.

Examples:



- Gymnastics is very popular among girls.
- The gymnastics shown in the field today were outstanding.

18. The name of a country is always regarded as singular.

Examples:

- The Bahamas has beautiful beaches.
- Philippines is a wondrous place.



- Examples:

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20. Collective nouns may be singular or plural depending on whether the individual members are acting individually or collectively. These nouns are: COMPANY, GROUP, COMMITTEE, CROWD, JURY, FLOCK, TEAM.

Examples:

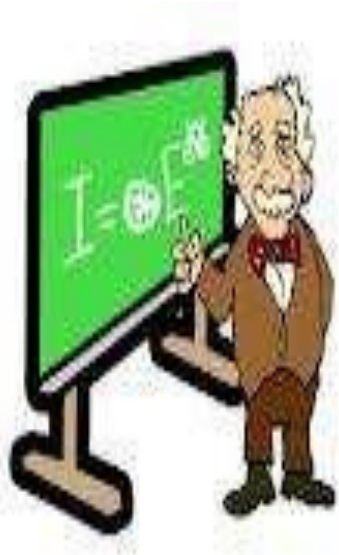


- The committee is against the plan. (acting collectively-singular)
- The committee are of different opinion. (acting individually-plural)

21. In the use of mathematical expressions, the following are accepted:

Examples:

- Seven plus three is ten.
- Seven and three are ten.
- Five times two are ten.
- Five minus two is three.



22. Titles of books, plays, articles, movies, etc. are regarded as singular even though words in the title may be plural.

Examples:



- “In Dreams Begin Responsibilities” is a story by D. Schwartz.
- “Great Expectations” is a must-read novel.

23. Names of organizations take a singular verb when the whole organization is referred to, and a plural verb when the members are referred to.

Examples:



- Lopez and Sons is a successful organization.
- Lopez and Sons are holding a two-day annual meeting.

24. If a sentence begins with the expletive IT, the verb is always singular even if the subject that follows the verb is plural.

Examples:



- It is the schools which must assume the responsibility.
- It is us who must take care of the environment.

Pronoun Antecedent

- What Is Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement? A pronoun is a word (he, she, it, they) that takes the place of a noun. An antecedent is the word the pronoun refers to or replaces. In a sentence, the antecedent comes before the pronoun. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person, number, and gender.
- Common Rules To Follow For Agreement:
 - 1. Two singular objects connected by and require a plural pronoun. Ex: Julie and Mike have chosen their costumes for the party.
 - 2. Words such as both, several, and many are plural and require plural pronouns. Ex: Both of my cats ate their food.
 - 3. The following words, when used as subjects, are always singular and must have singular pronouns:
 - Ex: Either of the boys will loan you his book.
 - Ex: Each of the girls brought her sleeping bag.

- 4. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent, not with the object of a prepositional phrase. Ex: One of the boys kicked his book.
- 5. Company names always require singular pronouns. Ex: MacFrugal's will soon have all of its spring clothes on sale.
- 6. Two singular subjects connected by the conjunction or require a singular pronoun.
 - Ex: Gloria or Lisa has promised to lend me her bike.
- 7. If one of the subjects joined by or or nor is singular and the other plural, the pronoun agrees with the closer word.
 - Ex: Either the dog or the cats lost their tray.
 - Ex: Neither the cats nor the dog lost its toy.
- 8. Collective nouns (army, class, family) take a singular pronoun when the noun refers to the group as a whole and a plural pronoun when the noun refers to the individual members of the group.
 - Ex of unit: The band marched its most intricate formation.
 - Ex of individual: The band found their seats in the bleachers.

Modifiers

- Misplaced Modifiers Misplaced modifiers are words that, because of their placement, confuse the meaning of a sentence. Words should be placed as closely as possible to what they describe.
- Examples:
- Misplaced modifier The students could see the shuttle launch from the school.
- Correct From the school, the students could see the shuttle launch.
Explanation The shuttle did not launch from the school.
- Modifying words or groups of words that open a sentence should be followed as closely as possible by the word that they describe. Examples:
- Dangling modifier While sleeping soundly, the alarm clock awakened Mary.
- Correct While sleeping soundly, Mary was awakened by the alarm clock.
- Explanation It was not the alarm clock that was sleeping soundly.

Parallelism

- Parallelism in grammar is defined as two or more phrases or clauses in a sentence that have the same grammatical structure.

OR

- Parallelism (also called parallel structure or parallel construction) is the repetition of the same grammatical form in two or more parts of a sentence.

Examples:

- Olympic athletes usually like practicing, competing, and to eat ice cream sandwiches.
- In this sentence, *practicing* and *competing* are gerunds (verbs functioning as nouns) and “to eat” is an infinitive. It sounds pretty awkward—just like being an athlete with a sweet tooth.

Instead:

- Olympic athletes usually like practicing, competing, and eating ice cream sandwiches.

Or

- Olympic athletes usually like to practice, compete, and eat ice cream sandwiches.
- Note that you don’t need to repeat the “to” in each instance of the infinitive form of the verb. As long as the form of the verb is the same in all three cases, you’re good to go.

Q. Barking dogs, kittens that were meowing, and squawking parakeets greet the pet shop visitors.

- A. Barking dogs, kittens that was meowing, and squawking parakeets greet the pet shop visitors.
- B. Barking dogs, meowing kittens, and squawking parakeets greet the pet shop visitors.
- C. Dogs that bark, kittens that meow, and parakeets squawking greet the pet shop visitors.
- D. No Error

Ans-B

- Explanation:
- The form of the verb should be the same in all three cases, so in this sentence they should be in **gerund** form.

Q. Alex looked everywhere for his math book—under the bed, on his desk, and he searched inside the refrigerator.

- A. Alex looked everywhere for his math book—under the bed, on his desk, and he searched inside the refrigerator.
- B. Alex looked everywhere for his math book—viewing under the bed, searching on his desk, and inside the refrigerator.
- C. Alex looked everywhere for his math book—under the bed, on his desk, and inside the refrigerator.
- D. No Error

Ans-C

- Explanation:
- Items in a series must be all nouns, all verbs, or all participles, and so on.

Comparisons

- We use comparative or superlative degree for comparisons.
- Ex.---Rohan is taller than Ramesh.
- Rohan is the tallest boy in the class.
- We use 'that/those of' in comparisons :
- Examples:
- The room of this building is bigger than that of that building.
- The houses in my city are cleaner than those of your city.

☐ Than is used with comparative degree

☐ Article the is used with superlative degree

Redundancy

- Words with same meaning lead to redundancy in a sentence:

- Examples:

- The field of online education requires some new innovation.

1. Online education

✓ new innovation

1. Field of

2. No error

- Along with all the praises, the winner also got many free prizes.

✓ Free prizes

1. Winner also

2. Many free

3. No error

- On the last day of the semester the students got an unexpected surprise.

1.Last day

✓Unexpected Surprise

1.The students got

2.No error

- Raman thinks he has sufficient enough knowledge about the situation to solve the problem.

✓Sufficient enough

1.Enough knowledge

2.Situation to solve

3.No error

Participles

- 3 types
- Present Participle---ing form of verb
- Examples:

He came in. He was laughing.

- He came in laughing.

He took his walking stick. He went out.

- Taking his walking stick, he went out.

- Past Participle—3rd form of verb

- Examples:

- The traveller was tired. He sat down to rest.

- The tired traveller sat down to rest.

- The broken pitcher cannot hold water.

- Perfect participle:
- I finished my work. I went out to play.
- Having finished my work, I went out to play.

- The sun having set, we stopped playing.
- Having sold all the caps, the cap seller went home.

Verb Tenses

- As the name suggests, verbs used in the sentences should be according to tense.

- Example:

✗ He got up and have breakfast.

✓ He got up and had breakfast.

- I remembered to lock the door, but I _____ to shut the windows.

- 1) Will forget

- 2) Forgets

- ✓ 3) Forgot

- 4) Forgotted

- At that moment the boss noticed that a fly fell into his broad inkpot, and was trying feebly but desperately to clamber out again.

- ✓ 1) Had fallen

- 2) Is felling

- 3) Fallen

- 4) Was fell

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- **Rochelle _____ her daughter to college every day before she goes to work.**

✓ a) **Takes**

• b) **Taking**

• c) **Has taken**

• d) **Took**

- **More than half of the students _____ left the class.**

✓ a) **Have**

• b) **Is**

• c) **Was**

• d) **Has**

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