

**BIRLA VIDYA NIKETAN**  
**SESSION 2025-26**  
**ENGLISH**  
**SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT RULES**

**What are subjects and verbs?**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Who or what the sentence is about</b>
<b>Verb:</b>	<b>The action word or helping verb.</b>

**Singular Subject + Singular Verb** – When the subject is just one person, animal or thing, the word usually ends in ‘s’ or ‘es’.

**Plural Subject + Plural Verb** – When we talk about two or more people, animals or things, we do NOT add ‘s’ or ‘es’.to the verb.

<b>RULE</b>	<b>EXPLANATION</b>	<b>CONCEPT</b>
<b>do/ does / did</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- do – plural subjects &amp; “I/you”</li><li>- does – singular subjects</li><li>- did – past tense for all subjects; verb stays in base form</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ I do my homework every day.</li><li>✓ She does her homework every day.</li><li>✓ We did our homework yesterday.</li></ul>
<b>has / have / had</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- has – singular subjects</li><li>- have – plural subjects &amp; “I/you”</li><li>- had – past tense for all subjects</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ He has a pet cat.</li><li>✓ They have a pet cat.</li><li>✓ I had a pet cat last year.</li></ul>

<b>is / am / are</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- is – singular subjects</li> <li>- am – only with “I”</li> <li>- are – plural subjects &amp; “you”</li> </ul>	<p>✓ She is my friend.</p> <p>✓ I am happy.</p> <p>✓ They are happy.</p>
<b>was/ were</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- was – singular subjects &amp; “I”</li> <li>- were – plural subjects &amp; “you”</li> </ul>	<p>✓ She was late.</p> <p>✓ They were late.</p>
<b>adding -s to the verbs</b>	with singular subject in present tense, add -s or -es to the verb	<p>✓ He runs fast.</p> <p>✗ He run fast.</p>
<b>Plural Subjects</b>	Do not add -s to the verb in present tense	<p>✓ They run fast.</p> <p>✗ They runs fast.</p>
<b>Did + verb</b>	Always use base form after “did” (no -s, no past tense form)	<p>✓ She did go to the market.</p> <p>✗ She did went to the market.</p>
<b>Collective Nouns</b>	Treated as singular when the group is seen as one unit	<p>✓ The team is playing well.</p> <p>✓ The committee has decided.</p>