



**CHANDIGARH
UNIVERSITY**

Discover. Learn. Empower.

University Institute of Liberal Arts and Humanities

Course Name – Communication Skills

Course Code – 20UCT-141/191

Faculty Name - Ms. Harpreet Kaur



**CONCORD (SUBJECT VERB
AGREEMENT)**

DISCOVER . **LEARN** . EMPOWER

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The Course aims to:

1	Augment students overall communication and interpersonal skills by making them realize the importance of good oral and written English Language in professional life.
2	Enrich their reading capability with special emphasis on expanding vocabulary and grammatical formations.
3	Build exceptional speaking and writing skills by correcting grammatical errors and pronunciation through practice.

COURSE OUTCOMES

On completion, the students are expected to

CO Number	Title	Level
CO1	Produce correct contextual written text and speech in a wide range of communication situations.	Apply
CO2	Write original short compositions, in the form of paragraph writing, business correspondence, blogs etc. through logical support and argument.	Analyse
CO3	Demonstrate linguistic competence through accuracy in grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary.	Apply



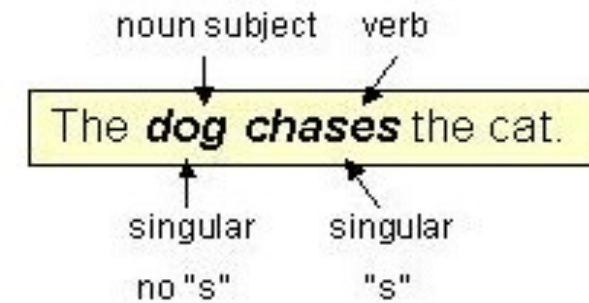
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Subject Verb Agreement

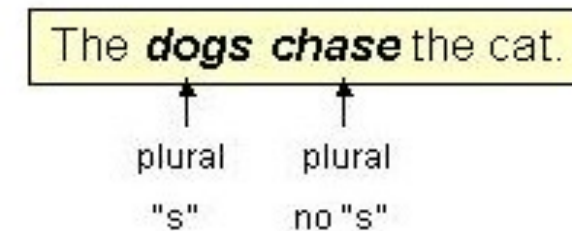
- Subjects and verbs must AGREE with one another in number (singular or plural).
- Thus, if a subject is singular, its verb must also be singular; if a subject is plural, its verb must also be plural.

Examples

Singular



Plural



Why Subject Verb Agreement?

- Incorrect Subject Verb Agreement can cause your writing to be confusing to the reader.
- Example: If your subject and verb disagree you *does* not sound so good.
- She *are* a nice person. (Incorrect)

Rule 1

Subjects and verbs **must agree in number.**

Example: She writes every day.
 They write every day.

Rule 2

- Don't get confused by the words and phrases that come between the subject and verb; they do not affect agreement.

Example: This movie, out of all other movies, is my favourite.

Rule 3

- Two singular subjects connected by ***or*** or ***nor*** require a singular verb.

Example: A taxi or a bus is on its way.

A blue or White shirt is fine for an interview.

That guy or his friends were standing here.

Rule 4

- When sentences start with “there” or “here”, the subject will always be placed after the verb, so care needs to be taken to identify it correctly.

Example: There are no cookies in the jar.

Here is the pen you were looking for.

There is a book in my bag.

Rule 5

- Two singular subjects connected by **either/or** or **neither/nor** require a singular verb.

Example: Either Susan or Carol has a lecture today.

Neither Chemistry or Physics is easy to master.

Rule 6

- If two subjects are joined by **and** they require a plural verb form.

Example: James and Susan look good together.

Rule 7

- The verb is singular if the two subjects separated by **and** refer to the same person or thing.
- Example: Red beans and rice is my mom's favourite dish.

Rule 8

- If one of the words **each**, **every** or **no** comes before the subject, the verb is singular.

Example: No smoking or drinking is allowed.

Every man and woman is required to check in.

Rule 9

- Phrases such as **together with**, **as well as**, and **along with** are not the same as **and**. The phrase introduced by **as well as** or **along with** will modify the earlier word (mayor in this case), but it does not compound the subjects (as the word and would do).

Example: The mayor as well as his brother is going to prison.

The mayor and his brothers are going to jail.

Rule 10

- The singular verb form is usually used for **units of measurement**.
- Example: Four quarts of oil was required to get the car running.

Rule 11

- When **I** is one of the two subjects connected by either/or or neither/nor, put it second and follow with the singular verb **am**.
- Example: Neither she nor I am going to the festival.

Rule 12

- Sometimes nouns seem they are plural when they are really singular and vice-versa. Words such as glasses, pants, pliers, and scissors are regarded as plural (and require plural verbs) unless they are preceded by the phrase pair of (in which case the word pair becomes the subject).
- Example: My glasses *were* on the bed.
My pants *were* torn.
A pair of my jeans *is* in the closet.

Rule 13

- If one subject is singular and one plural and the words are connected by the words or, nor, neither/nor, either/or, and not only/but also, you use the verb form of the subject that is nearest the verb.
- Example: Either the bears or the lion has escaped from the zoo.
Neither the lion nor the bears have escaped from the zoo.

Rule 14

- Use a singular verb with sums of money or periods of time.
- Example: Ten dollars is a high price to pay.
Five years is the maximum sentence for that offense.

Rule 15

- Collective nouns like herd, senate, class, crowd, etc. usually take a singular verb form.

Example: The herd is stampeding.

The Senate has taken a unanimous decision.

Rule 16

- The indefinite pronouns **anyone**, **everyone**, **someone**, **no one**, **nobody**, are always singular and, therefore, require singular verbs. **Everyone** and **everybody** certainly feel like more than one person and, therefore, students are sometimes tempted to use a plural verb with them. **Each** is often followed by a prepositional phrase ending in a plural word (Each of the cars), thus confusing the verb choice. Each, too, is always singular and requires a singular verb.
- Example: Everyone has done his or her homework.
Somebody has left her purse.

Rule 17

- Some words end in -s and appear to be plural but are really singular and require singular verbs.
- Example: The news from the front is bad.
Measles is a dangerous disease for pregnant women.

Rule 18

- Fractional expressions such as half of, a part of, a percentage of, a majority of are sometimes singular and sometimes plural, depending on the meaning. Sums and products of mathematical processes are expressed as singular and require singular verbs. The expression “more than one” takes a singular verb: “More than one student has tried this.” **Example:**
- Some of the voters are still angry.
- A large percentage of the older population is voting against her.
- Two-fifths of the troops were lost in the battle.

Rule 19

- If a sentence compounds a positive and a negative subject and one is plural, the other singular, the verb should agree with positive subject.

Example: It is not the faculty members but the president who decided this issue.

It was the speaker, not his ideas, that has provoked the students to riot.

Exercise

1. A bouquet of yellow roses lend/lends color and fragrance to the room.
2. Annie and her brothers (is, are) at school.
3. George and Tamara (doesn't, don't) want to see that movie.
4. One of my sisters (is, are) going on a trip to France.
5. The movie, including all the previews, (take, takes) about two hours to watch.
6. Either answer (is, are) acceptable.

Answers

1. Lends
2. Are
3. Don't
4. Is
5. Takes
6. Is

References

- <https://academicguides.waldenu.edu/writingcenter/grammar/subjectverbagreement>
- http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/sv_agr.htm
- <https://examples.yourdictionary.com/examples-of-subject-verb-agreement.html>
- <https://grammar.yourdictionary.com/sentences/20-rules-of-subject-verb-agreement.html>
- <https://www.grammarbook.com/grammar/subjectVerbAgree.asp>
- Chandigarh University Study Material for Communication Skills

Application

- Using the correct grammar (when one writes or speaks) is important to avoid misunderstandings, and to help the other person understand easily. If one's English is too full of mistakes, it will slow down communication and conversations. It will be harder to express one's ideas and thoughts clearly and concisely.
- Understanding Subject verb Agreement will help students to know the syntactical relation that exists between a subject and a verb in a sentence and to avoid ambiguities.

Assessment Pattern

Students are assessed on the basis of the following parameters:

- Hourly Tests-2
- Assignments
- Surprise Test
- Quiz
- Students Engagement
- End Semester Exam



THANK YOU

For queries
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