

Mini-lesson 1

What is subject verb agreement?

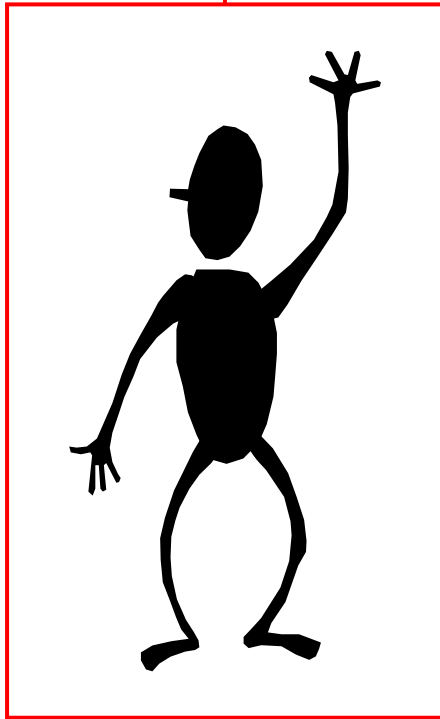
Subjects and Verbs Must Agree



- A singular subject needs a singular verb.
- A plural subject needs a plural verb.

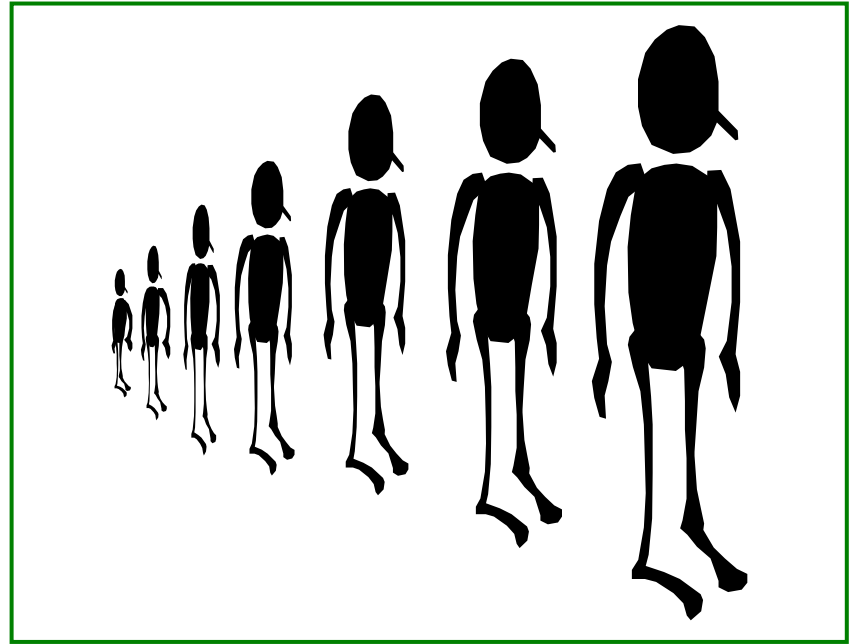
Singular vs. Plural

Singular



The person waits.

Plural



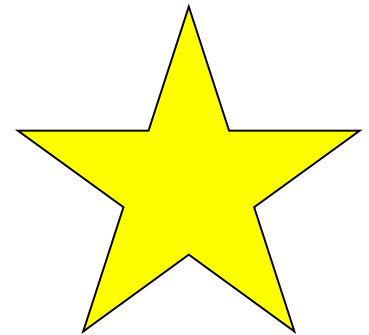
The people wait.

Example Sentence

verb

A good student knows the value of communication skills.

subject



Subject-Verb Agreement

No “s” ending on a noun often indicates that it is singular.

An “s” ending on a verb usually indicates that it is singular.

student knows



subject = verb

Example Sentence

Good students knows the value of communication skills.

verb

subject



Subject-Verb Disagreement

An “s” ending on a noun often indicates that it is plural.

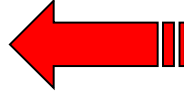
An “s” ending on a verb usually indicates that it is singular.

students knows



subject \neq verb

Some Common Rules

With...	Use a...
I	singular verb (no "s")
You	plural verb (no "s")
He, She, It	singular verb ("s") 
We	plural verb (no "s")
You	plural verb (no "s")
They	plural verb (no "s")

Mini-lesson 2

Agreement with Compound Subjects

Special Agreement Rules

- When the subject is made up of two or more nouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb.

She and her friends are...

implies two

plural verb

Special Agreement Rules

- When the subject is made up of two or more **singular** nouns connected by *or*, use a singular verb.

The book or the pen is...

The diagram shows the sentence "The book or the pen is...". The words "book" and "pen" are underlined with green lines, and the word "is" is circled in red. An orange arrow points from the text "implies one or the other" to the word "or". A green line connects "book" to the word "singular" below it. Another green line connects "pen" to the word "singular" below it. A red line connects "is" to the words "singular verb" below it.

implies one or the other

singular singular singular verb

Special Agreement Rules

- When the subject is made up of **singular and plural** nouns connected by *or*, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is closer to it.

The president or his assistants run...

singular

plural

plural verb

Verb agrees with the
closest part of the subject

Special Agreement Rules

- When the subject is made up of **singular and plural** nouns connected by *or*, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is closer to it.

His assistants or the president runs...

plural

singular

singular verb

Verb agrees with the
closest part of the subject

Mini-lesson 3

Phrases that Confuse Things

Don't Be Misled

- Don't be misled by phrases that come between the subject and the verb.
 - one of the boxes is
 - the people who read that report are
 - the team lead, as well as his developers, is
 - the manual, including all the chapters in the first section, is
 - the woman with all the answers sits

Mini-lesson 4

Singular or Plural?

Always Singular

- The following words are always singular and require a singular verb:
 - each, each one
 - either, neither
 - everyone, anyone, someone, no one
 - everybody, anybody, nobody

Always Singular

- Even though the following nouns end with an “s,” they are singular and require a singular verb:
 - civics
 - mathematics
 - dollars
 - news



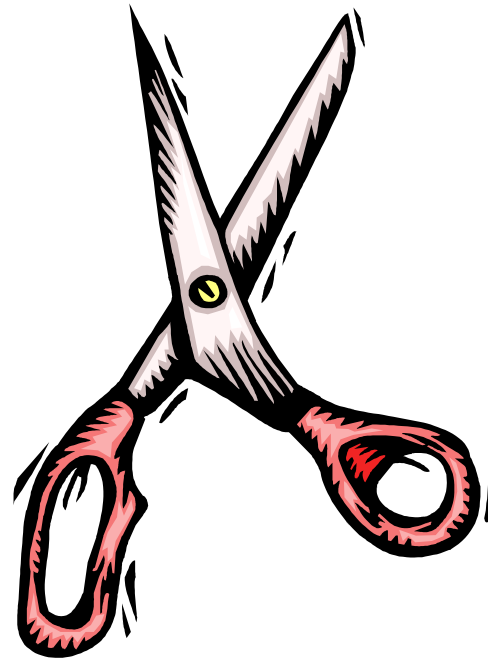
Almost Always Singular

- Collective nouns that refer to more than one person are usually treated as a single unit:
 - group
 - team
 - committee
 - class
 - family



Always Plural

- Nouns like the following are always plural (because they are made of two parts):
 - scissors
 - tweezers
 - trousers
 - pants
 - shears



Mini-lesson 5

Neither “Here” nor “There”

“There” is Never the Subject

- In sentences starting with the word “there,” the subject usually **follows** the verb.

There are many questions.

verb

subject

“There” is Never the Subject

- In sentences starting with the word “there,” the subject usually **follows** the verb.

There is a question.

verb

subject

The Same is True for “Here”

- In sentences starting with the word “here,” the subject usually **follows** the verb.

Here are your keys.

The diagram illustrates the sentence structure of "Here are your keys." The word "are" is underlined with a red line, and a red vertical line connects it to the word "verb" in red text below. The words "your keys" are underlined with a green line, and a green vertical line connects it to the word "subject" in green text below.

verb

subject

The Same is True for “Here”

- In sentences starting with the word “here,” the subject usually **follows** the verb.

Here is your key.

verb

subject