**Subject-verb agreement** is a grammatical rule that ensures the verb in a sentence matches the subject in number (singular or plural) and person. Here are the main rules:

**1. Singular subjects take singular verbs:**

* Example: "**He runs** fast." (singular subject "He" with singular verb "runs")
* Example: "**The cat is** sleeping." (singular subject "cat" with singular verb "is")

**2. Plural subjects take plural verbs:**

* Example: "**They run** fast." (plural subject "They" with plural verb "run")
* Example: "**The cats are** sleeping." (plural subject "cats" with plural verb "are")

**3. Subjects joined by "and" take a plural verb:**

* Example: "**John and Mary are** coming to the party."
* Exception: If the subjects form a single entity or refer to the same person/thing, a singular verb is used.
  + Example: "**Fish and chips is** my favorite dish."

**4. When subjects are joined by "or" or "nor," the verb agrees with the subject closer to the verb:**

* Example: "**Neither the manager nor the employees are** available."
* Example: "**Either the students or the teacher is** responsible."

**5. Indefinite pronouns:**

* **Singular indefinite pronouns** (e.g., **everyone**, **somebody**, **each**) take singular verbs:
  + Example: "**Everyone is** excited for the trip."
* **Plural indefinite pronouns** (e.g., **few**, **many**, **several**) take plural verbs:
  + Example: "**Few have** completed the assignment."

**6. Collective nouns (group, team, family, etc.):**

* Collective nouns typically take singular verbs when referring to the group as a unit:
  + Example: "**The team is** winning."
* But if individuals within the group are emphasized, a plural verb is used:
  + Example: "**The team are** arguing among themselves."

**7. Inverted sentences (starting with "here" or "there"):**

* The verb agrees with the subject that follows the verb:
  + Example: "**There is** a book on the table."
  + Example: "**Here are** the keys."

**8. Titles and Names (even if plural in form) take singular verbs:**

* Example: "**The United States is** a large country."
* Example: "**War and Peace is** a long novel."

**9. Expressions of quantity:**

* When followed by a singular noun, use a singular verb:
  + Example: "**One-third of the cake has** been eaten."
* When followed by a plural noun, use a plural verb:
  + Example: "**One-third of the students have** finished."

**10. With "each" and "every":**

* Use singular verbs:
  + Example: "**Each student has** a book."
  + Example: "**Every door is** locked."

**11. With "none":**

* "None" can take either a singular or plural verb, depending on context:
  + Example: "**None of the money is** missing." (money is singular)
  + Example: "**None of the players are** ready." (players is plural)

These rules help ensure your writing follows proper grammatical standards by aligning the subject and verb correctly.