**Rule 1**Two singular subjects connected by ***or*** or ***nor*** require a singular verb. **Example:**  
*My aunt or my uncle is arriving by train today.*

**Rule 2**Two singular subjects connected by ***either/or*** or ***neither/nor*** require a singular verb as in Rule 1. **Examples:**  
*Neither Gopy nor Mukaish is available.*  
*Either Buldaiv or Depak is helping today with stage decorations.*

**Rule 3**When***I***is one of the two subjects connected by ***either/or* or *neither/nor***, put it second and follow it with the singular verb *am*. **Example:**  
*Neither she nor I am going to the festival.*

**Rule 4**When a singular subject is connected by ***or* or *nor*** to a plural subject, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb. **Example:**  
*The serving bowl or the plates go on that shelf.*

**Rule 5**When a singular and plural subject are connected by ***either/or* or *neither/nor***, put the plural subject last and use a plural verb. **Example:**  
*Neither John nor the others are available.*

**Rule 6**As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by ***and***. **Example:** *A car and a bike are my means of transportation.*

**Rule 7**Sometimes the subject is separated from the verb by words such as ***along with, as well as, besides*, or *not***. **Ignore these expressions** when determining whether to use a singular or plural verb. **Examples:**  
*The politician, along with the newsmen, is expected shortly.*  
Excitement, as well as nervousness, is the cause of her shaking.

**Rule 8**The pronouns ***each, everyone, every one, everybody, anyone, anybody, someone,* and *somebody*** are singular and require singular verbs. Do not be misled by what follows *of*. **Examples:**  
*Each of the girls sings well.*  
*Every one of the cakes is gone.*

**Rule 9**With words that indicate portions—***percent, fraction, part, majority, some, all, none, remainder***, and so forth —look at the noun in your *of* phrase (object of the preposition) to determine whether to use a singular or plural verb. **If the object of the preposition is singular, use a singular verb. If the object of the preposition is plural, use a plural verb.  
Examples:**  
*Fifty percent of the pie has disappeared.*  
*Pie* is the object of the preposition *of*.  
*Fifty percent of the pies have disappeared.*  
*Pies* is the object of the preposition.  
*One-third of the city is unemployed.*  
*One-third of the people are unemployed.*

**NOTE:** Hyphenate all spelled-out fractions. *All of the tart is gone.*  
*All of the tarts are gone.*  
*Some of the tart is missing.*  
*Some of the tarts are missing.*  
*None of the garbage was picked up.*  
*None of the letters were addressed correctly.*  
*Of all her pencils, none have sold as well as the first one.*

**If in context *none* seems like a singular to you, use a singular verb; if it seems like a plural, use a plural verb.**

**Rule 10**The expression “***the number***“is followed by a singular verb while the expression **“*a number”*** is followed by a plural verb. **Examples:**  
*The number of people we need to hire is thirteen.*  
*A number of people have written in about this subject.*

**Rule 11**When ***either* and *neither*** are subjects, they **always take singular verbs.  
Examples:** *Neither of them is available to speak right now.*  
*Either of us is capable of doing the job.*

**Rule 12**The words *here* and *there* have generally been labeled as adverbs even though they indicate place. In sentences beginning with ***here* or *there*, the subject follows the verb.**  
**Examples:**  
*There are four lanes to cross.*  
*There is a big lane to cross.*

**Rule 13**Use a **singular verb** with **sums of money** or **periods of time**. **Examples:***Ten rupees is a high price to pay.*  
*Five years is the maximum sentence for that offense.*

**Rule 14**Sometimes the pronoun ***who, that*, or *which*** is the subject of a verb in the middle of the sentence. **The pronouns *who, that*, and *which* become singular or plural according to the noun directly in front of them.** So, **if that noun is singular, use a singular verb. If it is plural, use a plural verb.  
Examples:**  
*Ram is the* ***scientist who*** *writes/write the reports.*  
The word in front of *who* is *scientist*, which is singular. Therefore, use the singular verb *writes*.  
*He is one of the* ***men who*** *does/do the work.*  
The word in front of *who* is *men*, which is plural. Therefore, use the plural verb *do.*

**Rule 15**Collective nouns such as ***team* and *staff*** may be either singular or plural depending on their use in the sentence. **Examples:**  
*The staff is in a meeting.*