

9. Subject-Verb Agreement

1. 단수 주어(singular subjects)는 단수 동사(singular verbs), 복수 주어(plural subjects)는 복수 동사(plural verbs)가 필요하다.

(ex.) My brother **is** a nutritionist.

My sisters **are** mathematicians.

2. 부정대명사(indefinite pronouns)

- 1) -one, -body, -thing으로 끝나는 것 ⇒ 단수 동사

(ex.) Somebody _____ left her purse.

- 2) every, each, either, neither (+ 단수명사) ⇒ 단수 동사

every one, each, either, neither (+ of the 복수명사) ⇒ 단수 동사¹⁾

(ex.) Either way _____ fine with me.

Each of the students _____ responsible for doing his or her work in the library.

Neither of the two traffic lights _____ working.

1) informal하게 쓰일 때, 특히 의문문에서 (n)either of the 복수명사를 복수로 취급하기도 한다.

(ex.) **Have** (n)either of you two clowns read the assignment? **Are** (n)either of you taking this seriously?

3) all, some, any, no (+ 단수명사—주로 ㉠) ⇒ 단수 동사

all, some, any, no (+ 복수명사) ⇒ 복수 동사

(ex.) Some (of the beads) _____ missing.

Some (of the water) _____ dirty.

All _____ not gold that glitters.

All you need _____ a hammer and some nails.

All of the people _____ gone.

4) none (of the ㉠) ⇒ 단수 동사.

none (of the 복수명사) ⇒ 단수 동사, 복수 동사 모두 가능

(ex.) None of the food _____ fresh.

None of our factories _____ in operation yet.

None of the students _____ done their homework.

3. 부분을 가리키는 표현(fractional expressions)

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|--|
| most of, majority of, half of, the rest of, part of, percentage of, 숫자 percent of, 분수 of |
|--|

: 위의 3)번 all, some, any, no와 동일한 원칙이 적용된다.

(ex.) A large percentage of the older population _____ voting against her.

Two-fifths of the troops _____ lost in the battle.

Forty percent of the students _____ in favor of changing the policy.

Forty percent of the student body _____ in favor of changing the policy.

4. **either A or B, neither A nor B, not only A but also B** 에서는 동사에 가까운 것 (closer to the verb)을 주어로 간주한다.²⁾

(ex.) Either my father or my brothers _____ going to sell the house.

Neither my brothers nor my father _____ going to sell the house.

_____ either my brothers or my father responsible?

_____ either my father or my brothers responsible?

5. **긍정주어와 부정주어**가 함께 있으면 동사는 긍정 주어와 일치한다. (not ~ but ~)

(ex.) The department members but not the chair _____ decided not to teach on Valentine's Day.

It is not the faculty members but the president who (decide/decides) this issue.

It is the speaker, not his ideas, that _____ provoked the students to riot.

6. with, along with, together with, as well as, accompanied by 등은 and와 같은 의미로 쓰이지 만, **전치사구**로 간주하여 주어에 포함시키지 않는다.

(ex.) The mayor as well as his brothers _____ going to prison.

The mayor and his brothers _____ going to jail.

7. 주어와 동사 사이의 **수식어**가 아무리 길다고 하더라도 일치에 영향을 미치지 않는다.

(ex.) The mayor, who has been convicted along with his four brothers on four counts of

2) 복수인 주어를 동사에 가깝게 두는 것이 덜 어색하다.

various crimes but who also seems, like a cat, to have several political lives, _____
finally going to jail.

8. 「거리, 금액, 기간, 무게, 면적」 등은 복수형으로 되어 있더라도 단수 동사가 온다.

(ex.) A hundred miles _____ a good distance to travel in a day.

Ten dollars _____ too much for this old coin.

★ 예외 : Five years _____ passed since his father died.

9. **A number of** 복수명사 = 복수동사 / **the number of** 복수명사 = 단수동사

(ex.) A number of workers _____ recently left the company.

The number of cars _____ greatly increased.

10. **수학적 연산**(mathematical processes)은 단수로 취급된다.

(ex.) Two and two is four.

Four times four divided by two is eight.

11. **짝**으로 되어 있는 것은 복수로 취급되지만, "pair of"가 앞에 오면 pair가 주어가 된다.

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| glasses, scissors, pliers, pants, pajamas, shorts, jeans, scales..... |
|---|

(ex.) My pants _____ torn.

A pair of plaid trousers _____ in the closet.

Two pairs of glasses _____ on the shelf.

12. 끝이 -s로 끝나서 **복수처럼 보이는 셀 수 없는 명사들(㉠)**이 많이 있다. 당연히 단수 동사가 온다.

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|-------------------------|---|
| 학과명 | mathematics, economics, politics, physics, ethics, gymnastics, statistics |
| 병명 | measles, shivers |
| 국명 | The United States, the Philippines, the Netherlands |
| 서적, 신문, 연극, 영화 등 | the Dialogues of Plato, Canterbury Tales, the Times |
| 게임, 오락 | cards, billiards |

(ex.) The **news** from the front _____ bad.

Measles is a dangerous disease for pregnant women.

★ statistics는 특히 조심해야 한다.

Statistics _____ an interesting field of study.

This **statistic** _____ correct.

Those statistics _____ incorrect.

13. -s로 끝나는 어떤 단어들은 하나의 사물을 가리키고 있는데도 복수로 취급하여 복수 동사가 이어진다.

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|---|
| goods, belongings, arms, means(재산) ³⁾ , customs(세관), forces(군대), manners |
|---|

(ex.) My **assets** were wiped out in the depression.

The average worker's **earnings** have gone up dramatically.

Our **thanks** go to the workers who supported the union.

14. "more than one"은 신기하게도 단수 동사가 온다.

(ex.) More than one **student** _____ tried this.

15. **There와 Here**⁴⁾는 절대 주어로 취급되지 않는다.

(ex.) There _____ two reasons for this.

There _____ no reason for this.

16. **and로 연결**되어 하나의 사물을 가리키면 단수로 취급된다.

1) 관사 + **[N and N]** ⇒ 단수. **[관사 + N]** and **[관사 + N]** = 복수

(ex.) A black and white dog _____ running here.

A black and a white dog _____ running here.

The great poet and novelist _____ present.

2) N and N (관사가 없는 경우)

3) means(수단)의 경우에는 미국은 단수동사, 영국은 복수동사를 쓴다.

4) expletive(허사)라고 부른다.

(ex.) Bread and butter _____ delicious.

Bread and butter _____ all risen in price.

Fish and chips _____ what he eats for breakfast.

Romeo and Juliet _____ not a typical Shakespearean tragedy like Hamlet.

Romeo and Juliet _____ secretly married by Friar Laurence.

Slow and steady (wins, win) the game.

Early to rise, and early to bed (makes, make) a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

All work and no play (makes, make) Jack a dull boy

☞ **1)의 예** : a horse and cart / a needle and thread / a watch and chain / a cup and saucer / a pen and ink

☞ **2)의 예** : whisky and water / trial and error / curry and rice / ebb and flow

3) 공동소유인가, 각자소유인가?

(ex.) Smith and Mary's (car, cars / was, were) on the parking-lot.

Smith's and Mary's (car, cars / was, were) grand and expensive.

17. 집합명사(Collective Nouns)의 경우⁵⁾

: 집합명사는 **하나의 집합 단위**(one impersonal unit)로 간주하는 경우와, **집합에 속한 개인들**(individual members)에 초점을 맞추는 경우로 나눌 수 있다. 전자의 경우는 당연히 **단수**로 취급되며, 후자의 경우는 **내용은 복수**이지만 미국 영어에서는 단수형에 주목하여 **단수 동사**가 이어지는 것이 일반적이다. 하지만 그 집합명사를 대명사로 표현할 때는 분

5) audience, class, committee, crowd, family, government, group, staff, team 등

명히 구분된다는 점을 명심해야 한다.

- My family (is / are) small. **It consists** of three members.
- My family (has / have) different destinations in mind for **their** summer holiday. **They** never **seem** to agree.⁶⁾

6) 영국 영어에서는 have로 쓴다.

Exercises

※ 다음 괄호 안에서 알맞은 것을 고르시오.

1. People feel those who have a different personality (are / is) attractive to them.
2. Legends say that the noise scares away the devils and evil spirits who live in the old year and (keeps / keep) them from coming into the new one.
3. Every Halloween brings to mind the memory of my dead grandparents that (has / have) stayed with me ever since I can remember.
4. The leap year (is / are) 366 days with 29 days in February as opposed to the normal 28 days.
5. That he should provide for his family members (matters / matter) to him.
6. 'Three Bears' (is / are) her favorite song.
7. 'Oxen' (is / are) the plural form of 'ox'.
8. The Imam should stand by the middle of the body if the deceased (is / are) a man.
9. The gin and tonic (tastes / taste) lovely.
10. She knew the president and founder of the company (was / were) named Patrick.

11. Each of these articles (has / have) been edited by me.
12. Not everyone fulfilled (his / their) duty.
13. The scissors (is / are) in the bag.
14. A pair of socks (was / were) picked up by her.
15. It is they that (is / are) dependent on me.
16. A number of monkeys (is / are) swinging from the tree.
17. The number of monkeys swinging from the tree (has / have) decreased.
18. Fifteen years (is / are) a long time to be working for the same company.
19. Ten years (has / have) passed since she died.
20. Never before in the history of our school (has, have) there been such promising students.
21. The witness maintained that he had seen the defendant (give, gives, gave) the package to one of the men who (was, were) loitering outside the store.
22. He narrowed the field of applicants to the three who he thought (was, were) best qualified for the position because of training and experience.