



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: April 2020
Worksheet No: 2	Topic: Subject Verb Agreement	Note: To be written in Notebook

Subject-Verb Agreement

Choose the verb given in the brackets that agrees with the subject of each sentence. Based on what you have learnt from the presentation, choose the correct verb for the subject.

1. Our cat (is/are) called Minnie.
2. Minnie (is/am) a cute little Burmese cat.
3. She (like/likes) to play with a small tennis ball.
4. I (throw/throws) the ball and Minnie (run/runs) to pick it up.
5. She also (love/loves) to play with my phone.
6. I don't (know/knows) what she (think/thinks) of a phone.
7. But whenever it (is/are) left unattended, Minnie (begin/begins) playing with it.
8. She (keep/keeps) staring at it.
9. It (seem/seems) that sometimes she even (try/tries) to type on it!
10. All my friends (is /are) very fond of her.

Let's review the Rules for Subject-Verb Agreement:

- When a sentence has two singular objects joined by the conjunction 'and', the verb must be plural.

Eg: Pizza and pasta are types of junk food.

NOTE: If the nouns suggest one idea, or refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.

Eg: Bread **and** Butter **is** the only food available in the supermarket.

- The following take singular verbs- 'each, every, each of, everyone, everybody, none, anybody, nobody, either of/neither of, nor/none of'

Eg: **Is either of** your twins a dancer?

Neither of you **have won** the scholarship.

Each guest **was welcomed** at the entrance.

- When the sentence begins with an introductory 'there', the verb agrees with the subject that follows it.

Eg: **There is** a lockdown in many countries.

There are forty five students in our class.

- A lot of and plenty of take a plural verb when they denote number; they take a singular verb when they denote quantity or amount.

Eg: There **were** a lot of people at the concert.

There **are** plenty of hospitals in Mumbai.

- A number of is always followed by a plural verb since it means several or many

Eg: There **have been** a number of new inventions this year.

- Collective nouns such as a group (of things), a crowd (of people), a herd (of cattle), a flock (of sheep), a fleet (of ships), a gang (of thieves), a board (of directors), a company/ regiment (of soldiers), generally takes a singular verb.

Eg: There **is** a crowd of people in the street.

A new **board of directors** **has been** elected.

NOTE: A collective noun is a noun used to name a whole group.

Army club class committee team jury staff

- A dozen, since it denotes a plural number, takes a plural verb.

Eg: There **are** a dozen mangoes in the basket.

- When a plural number applies to distances, weights, heights or amounts of money, taken as a whole, it is treated as singular and takes a singular verb.

Eg: **Ten kilometres** **is** a long walk. (not *are*)

Fifty thousand rupees **is** a large sum. (not *are*)

Three minutes **is** allowed to each speaker. (not *are*)

- When the plural noun is a proper name for some single object (title of a book, the name of a house or hotel), it must be followed by a singular verb since it is only one title or one building.

Eg: *Gulliver's Travels* **was written** by Jonathan Swift.

The *Paradise Inn* **is situated** on High Road.

- Words such as scissors, shoes, trousers and pants are regarded as plural and require plural verbs but if they are preceded by the phrase ‘a pair of...’ (the word ‘pair’ becomes the subject), it takes a singular verb.

Eg: The **scissors** **are** in the drawer.

A **pair of scissors** **is** in the drawer.

NOTE: When we omit the words a **pair of** and only use the plural word, then it must take a plural verb (as in e.g 1)

- Some of, half of (and any other fraction of) take a **plural verb** if the reference is to number (i.e. to the things that are **countable**), but takes a **singular verb** if the reference is to amount or quantity (i.e. **uncountable**).

Eg: **Some of the pens** **were** new.

Some of the milk **was** spilt on the floor.

Half of the eggs **were** rotten.

Half of the land **was** barren.

- Names of certain diseases and of certain sciences or branches of knowledge which end in **-s**, plural in form are actually singular in meaning and it takes a singular verb.

Eg: **Human rights** **is** an important subject these days.

Measles **is** an infectious disease.

Physics **is** an important branch of science.

- Class names or categories such as clothing, footwear, crockery, cutlery etc. are singular, and must therefore take a singular verb.

Eg: The **furniture** in her house **was** beautiful.

The **stationery** used in our school **is** of excellent quality.

- **Many** refers to number, it is plural and takes a plural verb; **much** refers to amount or quantity, it is singular and takes a singular verb.

Eg: **Many** roses these days **have** no fragrance at all.

Much of the countryside **was** flooded.

- **People** and **cattle** are plural and take a plural verb.

Eg: **People** in our country **are** hard- working.

The **cattle** **were** grazing in the field.

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences by choosing the appropriate verbs from the ones given in the brackets

1. Neither of the girls _____(is/are) my sister,
2. 'The Arabian Nights' _____ (is/are) my favourite book,
3. Maya and Mary _____ (is/are) great friends.
4. The box with its contents _____ (was/were) stolen.
5. Look, there _____ (is/are) a pride of lions near the lake!
6. The Principal, together with the teachers, _____ (is/are) attending the function.
7. Nicole, as well as her twin sister, _____ (has/have) been appointed the sports captain.
8. Every student _____ (has/have) to attend the meeting.
9. My trousers _____ (is/are) missing.
10. Harish, together with his friends, _____ (was/were) making a lot of noise in the class.

Exercise 2: Complete the sentences by choosing the correct alternative from the brackets.

1. There _____ (are/is) several reasons why we should join this school.
2. Hari and Vinay, who _____ (runs/run) a small restaurant in town, have decided to expand their business.
3. Both of the vases on the shelf _____ (are/is) broken.
4. The fishing boat that had been struggling in the storm for three days _____ (was/were) finally spotted coming towards the shore.
5. The hen, along with her chicks, always _____ (manage/manages) to escape from the fox.
6. The issues of corruption and inflation _____ (continue/continues) to be on everyone's mind.
7. Deepak or Deepti _____ (clean/cleans) the conference room each week.
8. Not even one of the performers _____ (were/was) paid by that company.
9. The results of the competition _____ (was/were) not available for two days.

10. When there _____ (is/am) exams approaching, we are always prevented from watching the television serials.

Exercise 3: Underline the appropriate verb in each of the following sentences:

1. The noisy students (have, has) to leave after two warnings.
2. The crying baby (irritate, irritates) them.
3. The longest of the presentations (is, are) in the next group.
4. Either one of the choices (is, are) going to disrupt the schedule.
5. This is the stereo system that (have, has) been purchased in our store.
6. Nobody (dare, dares) to challenge the teacher when she is wrong.
7. Neither of the students (has, have) been to Europe.
8. The problems (was, were) due to a misunderstanding.
9. (Has, Have) the manager or the assistant manager approached you?
10. Mathematics (is, are) very difficult for many students to master.