



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: October 2020
WORKSHEET	Topic: Subject-Verb Agreement (Grammar)	Note: NOTEBOOK

Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-Verb Agreement refers to the correspondence in form between a **verb** and its **subject**. The verb must agree with its subject in **number** and **person**. **When the subject of a sentence is singular, the verb must also be singular. When the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.** Also, make a verb agree in person (i.e., the doer of the action- first person, second person, third person) with its grammatical subject.

PERSON	SINGULAR	PLURAL
FIRST	I eat.	We eat.
SECOND	You eat.	You eat.
THIRD	He/ She/ It eats.	They eat.
	The bird eats.	Birds eat.

To make a verb singular, add **-s** or **-es** ending to the verb. To make a verb plural, remove **-s** or **-es** ending.

Example,

Singular Subject: The rabbit **is standing** on the log.



Plural Subject: The rabbits **are sitting** in the basket.



Example,

The bird **sings**/ The bird **is singing**.



The birds **sing**/ The birds **are singing**.



SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT RULES:

1. When a sentence has two singular objects joined by the conjunction ‘**and**’, the verb must be plural.

A subject that is made up of two or more nouns is a compound subject. When the parts are connected by ‘**and**’, the subject is plural, so it takes a plural verb.

Eg: Jack, Kara **and** Sandy play football together.

Bob **and** his friends walk to the market.

NOTE:

- Sometimes two subjects are regarded as representing one idea, and then the verb is singular.

Eg: Bread **and** butter is his favourite food.

- If two singular nouns refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular.

Eg: The singer **and** songwriter has arrived.

If the article is mentioned twice, then two distinct persons are intended, and the verb used must be plural.

Eg: The singer **and** the songwriter have arrived.

2. The following **indefinite pronouns** are singular and take singular verbs.

Someone	somebody	something	another	anybody	anyone
Anything	nobody	no one	nothing	each	everybody
Everyone	everything	either	neither		

Eg: **Everyone** is anxious to meet the new boss.

Each of the participants was willing to be recorded.

3. Subjects joined by ‘**either/ or...neither/ nor**’ take verb (singular/ plural) that agrees with the last subject or the subject closest to the verb.

Eg: **Either** Bob **or** his brother walks to the store.

Neither Bob **nor** his brothers walk to the store.

4. The following pronouns are **plural** and take a **plural verb**.

Both	few	many	several
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Eg: **Many** of the boys have passed.

5. Often **none** is used with the preposition **of**. If the noun following the preposition (of) is singular, use a singular verb, whereas if the noun following the preposition is plural, use a plural verb.

Eg: **None** of the mango is eaten raw.

None of workers are here.

6. **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 windows have screens.

Half of the land was barren.

7. When the sentence begins with an introductory ‘**there**’ or ‘**here**’, the verb agrees with the subject that follows it.

Eg: **There** is a shop near the playground.

Here are your clean clothes.

8. Words such as **scissors, shoes, trousers, pliers, shears** 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 **pliers** are in the toolbox.

A **pair of pliers** is in the toolbox.

9. **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: The **committee** agrees on this decision.

A **flock of sheep** is grazing in the field.

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

Army club class team jury staff band crowd

10. When the plural noun is a **proper name for some single object** (title of the 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** is an interesting book.

11. The following nouns are singular, although they appear to be plural. As the subject of a sentence, they take a **singular verb**.

Civics Athletics Genetics Politics Measles Economics

Eg: **Mumps** is a serious illness.

Gymnastics is his favourite sport.

12. If two nouns are joined by **with** or **as well as**, the verb agrees with the first noun. In other words, if the first noun is singular, the verb must be singular, even if the second noun is plural.

Eg: Mary, **as well as** her friend, has won the prize.

The king, **with** all his ministers, was killed.

NOTE: A parenthesis is not included in the subject of a sentence.

Eg: **Jimmy (and his aunts)** loves the new apartment.

The boxers (and their coach) board a bus to the stadium.

13. Use a singular verb for **expressions of measurement, heights, weights, time or money** when the amount is considered or taken as a whole.

Eg: **Fifty dollars** is a reasonable price.

EXERCISE 1:

Choose the verb that correctly completes the sentence:

1. Meat with potatoes (is/are) my brother’s favourite meal.
2. Jimmy, as well as his baby brother, (ride/ rides) in the shopping cart.
3. Mathematics (is/are) a difficult subject for me.
4. Mumps (causes/cause) the salivary glands to swell.

5. Fifty years (is/are) a short time in the history.
6. Here (is/are) a list of classes we can attend.
7. There (is/are) too many students in my group.
8. My brother, who has three children, (is/are) visiting us this Christmas.
9. The captain and his men (was/were) able to fight off the invaders.
10. Ninety dollars for a pair of shoes (is/are) ridiculous.

EXERCISE 2:

Choose the correct verb to fill in the blanks:

1. Writing with footnotes _____ (is/are) informative.
2. The shelf of books _____ (was/were) poorly stacked.
3. The committee of members _____ (meet/meets) on a fortnightly basis.
4. The weather in mountainous regions _____ (is/ are) treacherous during the winter.
5. Economics _____ (is/are) a major discipline at Flinders.
6. The spectacles _____ (was/were) found in the library.
7. Each of the students _____ (is/ are) asked to fill the form.
8. Either my father or my brothers _____ (is/ are) going to sell this house.
9. Nobody from the schools in our region _____ (attend/attends) Oxford University.
10. *Seven Little Australians* _____ (is/are) a classic children's book.

EXERCISE 3:

Underline the error in each of the following sentences and correct it.

1. Both of the boys was willing to take part in the competition.
2. None of the players was present in the stadium.
3. Some of the milk were spilt on the floor.
4. Harry, as well as his sister, have won the Chess championship.
5. The band play jazz music.

EXERCISE 4:

In the following paragraph, identify the five errors in subject-verb agreement.

The sheep-liver fluke is a parasitic flatworm with a very complex life cycle. The fluke start life by hatching inside a snail. The fluke is then ejected from the snail in a ball of slime. These balls of slime is eaten by ants. The fluke digs its way through the ant's body until it reach the ant's brain. There, the fluke takes control of the ant by manipulating its nerves, thus turning the ant into its personal robot. Under the command of the fluke, the ant climb to the top of a blade of grass. If the fluke is in luck, the ant is eaten by a passing sheep. From the sheep's stomach, the fluke work its way home to the liver.