



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

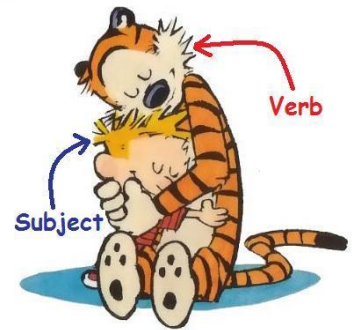
Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: APRIL 2021
STUDY NOTES & WORKSHEET No 3	Topic: Subject Verb Agreement	Note: Exercises to be done in the notebook

Subject Verb Agreement

Let's understand and learn the rules for Subject-Verb Agreement:

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

- ✓ She and I **run** every day.



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

- ✓ Breaking and entering **is** against the law.

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



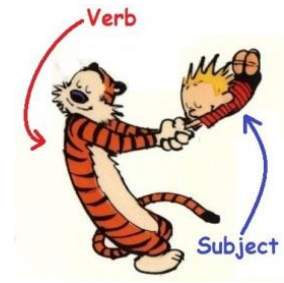
- ✓ Everybody **knows** Mr. Jones.
- ✓ Each guest **was** welcomed at the entrance.
- ✓ Everyone **has** to climb to the top.

➤ When the sentence begins with an introductory 'there' or 'here' the verb agrees with the subject that follows it.

- ✓ There **is** a book on the table.
- ✓ There **are** forty-five students in our class.
- ✓ Here **is** my wallet.

➤ ‘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.

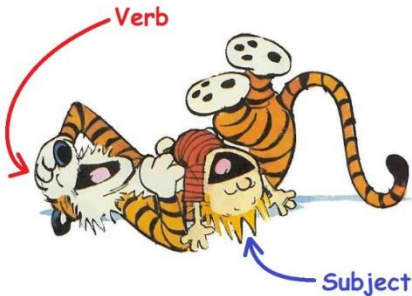
- ✓ There **are** a lot of problems in the project.
- ✓ Lots of students **have** passed the test.
- ✓ A lot of sugar **is** needed to make a cake for nine people.



➤ ‘A number of’ is always followed by a plural verb since it means several or many.

- ✓ A number of people **grow** tomatoes each summer.
- ✓ A number of students **are** going on the trip.

➤ 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.



- ✓ A set of 12 dishes **is** all you need for the dinner party.
- ✓ A swarm of locusts **has** destroyed the crops.

NOTE: A collective noun is a noun used to name a whole group. (army, club, class, committee, team, jury, staff, etc.)

➤ ‘A dozen’, since it denotes a plural number, takes a plural verb.

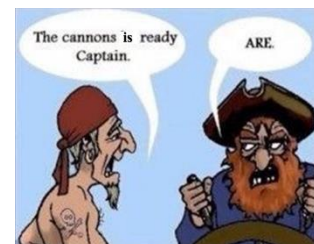
- ✓ Here **are** a dozen resources for every student.

➤ 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.

- ✓ Five hundred square feet **is** a very small space to live in. (not are)
- ✓ Five dollars **is** too much! (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.

- ✓ ‘The Three Musketeers’ **is** a wonderful novel.
- ✓ ‘The Arabian Nights’ **has** interesting stories.
- ✓ ‘The Hotel Brewers’ **is** a five-star hotel.



➤ 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.



- ✓ Trousers **were** washed by the servant.
- ✓ A pair of trousers **was** washed by the servant.
- ✓ A pair of shoes **was** bought by him.

➤ 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).

- ✓ Some of these facts **are** incorrect.
- ✓ Some of the meat **is** spoiled.
- ✓ Half of the eggs **were** rotten.
- ✓ Half of the students **are** from another country.

➤ 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.

- ✓ The news **is** not good.
- ✓ Measles **is** not a fatal disease.
- ✓ Statistics **is** Jake’s favorite subject.

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

- ✓ 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.



- ✓ Many researchers **depend** on grants from industry.
- ✓ Much of the book **seems** relevant to this study.

➤ People and cattle are plural and take a plural verb.

- ✓ People **like** to be praised.
- ✓ The cattle **are** in the field.



Exercise - 1

Underline the subject and correct verb for it in the following sentences.

1. Somebody (steal, steals) my morning paper nearly every morning.
2. Both (argue, argues) on the phone.
3. Some pizza (has, have) been saved for later.
4. Half of the answers (was, were) correct.
5. Half of the assignment (is, are) already complete.
6. Most of the ice (melt, melts) in the spring.
7. Neither of the employers who interviewed me last week (has, have) called with the results of the interviews.
8. A small group of parents (hope, hopes) to meet on Sunday to discuss travel arrangements for their children touring Southeast Asia in the fall.
9. Meena and her parents (visit/visits) each other often.
10. Either the cups or the glasses (are/is) in the dishwasher.



Exercise - 2

Fill in the blanks by choosing the best option from the brackets:

1. The quality of the apples _____ (was/were/are/has) not good.

2. Fire and water _____ (do/does/did/done) not agree.
3. Time and tide _____ (wait/waits/waited/waiting) for none.
4. Justice, as well as mercy _____ (allow/allowable/allows/allowing) it.
5. Neither the teacher nor the students _____ (is/am/are/was) in the school.
6. Many fascinating games _____ (is, are) for sale in this store.
7. The news _____ (was/were/had/has) good.
8. Neither car _____ (drive, drives) easily.
9. The United States _____ (are/has/have) a big navy.
10. Everyone _____ (has, have, were) finished his or her homework.



Exercise - 3

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

1. Simple living and high thinking _____ Gandhiji's philosophy. (were/ was)
2. It is said that beauty and brains _____ not go together. (do/does)
3. Dev and Anuj _____ going to Goa this weekend. (is/are)
4. The singer and actor, Sonu _____ awarded a trophy. (were/was)
5. The singer and the actor _____wearing similar jackets. (were/was)
6. The logic and reasoning of the theory _____ given below. (is/are)
7. Milk and cereals _____ the best breakfast for kids. (are/is)
8. His honesty and integrity _____ unquestionable. (is/are)
9. Watching T.V. and playing video games _____ not interest me. (does/do)
10. You and she _____ been selected for the extempore competition. (has/have)

