

INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VIII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: JANUARY 2023
WORKSHEET NO: 25	Topic: Subject-Verb Agreement (Grammar)	Note: NOTEBOOK

Subject-Verb Concord

Subject-Verb Concord 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,

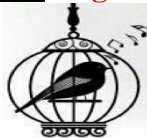
Singular Subject: The rabbit **is standing** on the log.



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. E.g.: 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

E.g.: **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.

E.g.: 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.

E.g.: **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.

E.g.: **Fifty dollars** is a reasonable price.

EXERCISE

Q I. Choose the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.

1. Annie and her brothers (is, are) at school.
2. Either my mother or my father (is, are) coming to the meeting.
3. The dog or the cats (is, are) outside.
4. Either my shoes or your coat (is, are) always on the floor.
5. George and Tamara (doesn't, don't) want to see that movie.

6. Benito (doesn't, don't) know the answer.
7. One of my sisters (is, are) going on a trip to France.
8. The man with all the birds (live, lives) on my street.
9. The movie, including all the previews, (take, takes) about two hours to watch.
10. The players, as well as the captain, (want, wants) to win.
11. Either answer (is, are) acceptable.
12. Every one of those books (is, are) fiction.
13. Nobody (know, knows) the trouble I've seen.
14. (Is, Are) the news on at five or six?
15. Mathematics (is, are) John's favorite subject, while Civics (is, are) Andrea's favorite subject.
16. Eight dollars (is, are) the price of a movie these days.
17. (Is, Are) the tweezers in this drawer?
18. Your pants (is, are) at the cleaner's.
19. There (was, were) fifteen candies in that bag. Now there (is, are) only one left!
20. The committee (debates, debate) these questions carefully.

Q II. Underline the subject (or compound subject) and then identify the verb that agrees with it.

1. Everyone in the telecom focus group (has/have) experienced problems with cell phones.
2. Your friendship over the years and your support (has/have) meant a great deal to us.
3. Hamilton Family Center, a shelter for teenage runaways in San Francisco, (offers/offer) a wide variety of services.
4. The main source of income for Trinidad (is/are) oil and pitch.
5. The chances of your being promoted (is/are) excellent.
6. There (was/were) a Pokémon card stuck to the refrigerator.
7. Neither the professor nor his assistants (was/were) able to solve the mystery of the eerie glow in the laboratory.
8. Many hours at the driving range (has/have) led us to design golf balls with GPS locators in them.
9. Discovered in the soil of our city garden (was/were) a button dating from the Civil War dating from the turn of the century.
10. Every year, during the midsummer festival, the smoke of village bonfires (fills/fill) the sky.

11. The story performers (was/were) surrounded by children and adults eager to see magical tales.

12. All the CDs, even the scratched one, (is, are) in this case.