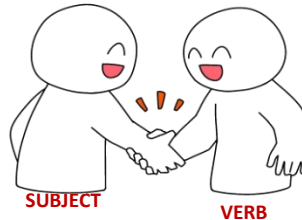




INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: MAY 2026
WORKSHEET NO. 9	SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT	Note: To be done in the notebook

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT



Brain Teaser

Look carefully at these two sentences.



- A. The basket of apples is on the table.
B. The basket of apples are on the table.



Which one do you think is correct? 🤔

Although apples is a plural noun, the correct sentence is:

The basket of apples is on the table.

Why?

The verb agrees with the main subject, not with every noun in the sentence. Here, the main subject is the basket, which is singular.

This rule is called **Subject-Verb Agreement**.

When the subject and verb agree, sentences become clear and grammatically correct. If they do not agree, the sentence sounds incorrect and may confuse the reader.

Remember:

Singular subject → singular verb

Plural subject → plural verb

Singular Verbs	Plural Verbs
1. is, was	1. are, were
2. goes	2. go
3. does	3. do
4. has	4. have
5. Any verb + 's' behind e.g. walk+ s	5. Any verb + without 's' behind e.g. walk

Read the following sentences.

1. The child laughs.



2. Children laugh.



Let us explore the rules!

RULES OF SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Rule 1: When two singular subjects are joined by **and**, they usually take a plural verb.

Examples:

- Vivek and Vikram have not come today.
- Riya and her sister are preparing for the dance competition.



Rule 2: If two singular nouns joined by **and** refer to the same person or thing, use a singular verb.

When the article **the** is used only before the first noun, it usually shows that both nouns refer to the same person.

Examples:

- The teacher and writer has received an award. (One person who is both a teacher and a writer.)



If the article **the** is used before both nouns, it usually refers to two different people.

- The teacher and the writer have received awards. (Two different people.)

Rule 3: When subjects are joined by **or** or **nor**, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it.

Examples:

- Either the coach or the players are bringing the equipment.
- Either the players or the coach is bringing the equipment.
- Neither the notebook nor the pencils are on the desk.



Rule 4: A collective noun names a group of people, animals, or things acting as one unit. It usually takes a singular verb.

Examples:

- The team practices every afternoon.
- The audience cheers loudly.



Exception:

If the members of the group are acting individually, a plural verb can be used.

- The team are discussing their individual strategies.

Rule 5: Some indefinite pronouns are always singular and take singular verbs.

{**everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, anyone, anybody, each, either, neither, one**}

Examples:

- Somebody is knocking at the door.
- Each of the students has a Chromebook.



Rule 6: Some indefinite pronouns, such as **several, many, few, and both**, are always plural and take plural verbs.

Examples:

- Several students were absent today.
- Few players have missed the practice sessions.



Rule 7: A phrase between the subject and the verb does not change the subject. The verb agrees with the main subject, not the noun inside the phrase.

Examples:

- The box of markers is on the shelf. (Subject = box, not markers)
- The list of assignments was posted online. (Subject = list, not assignments)

Rule 8: Some nouns such as **trousers, scissors, spectacles, shoes, and gloves** have two parts. When we use **a pair of**, they are treated as one item and take a singular verb.

Examples:

- A pair of gloves has been left on the playground.
- A pair of shoes was bought yesterday.



Without a pair of, these nouns are plural and take plural verbs.

Examples:

- My scissors are missing.
- Her spectacles were damaged yesterday.

Rule 9: **Amounts of money, time, distance, or measurement** are singular when they are considered one whole unit.

Examples:

- Two hours is enough time to complete the project.
- Ten dollars is enough to buy this notebook.

Rule 10: **Fractions** can take singular or plural verbs depending on the noun after 'of'.

Singular/uncountable noun → singular verb

Plural/countable noun → plural verb

Examples:

- One-fourth of the water is wasted.
- Two-thirds of the students are wearing sneakers.



When the subject begins with **one of** followed by a plural noun, the verb is singular because the main subject is one.

Examples:

- One of my cousins likes swimming.
- One of the players has scored the winning goal.



Rule 11: Sometimes **there or here** comes before the verb, and the subject comes after it. The verb must still agree with the actual subject.

Examples:

- There is a book on the table. (Subject = book)
- There are many books on the shelf. (Subject = books)

Rule 12: When extra information is added using **with, along with, together with, or as well as**, it does **not** change the main subject. The verb agrees with the **first/main subject**.

Examples:

- The students, as well as their teacher, are attending the workshop. (*Subject = students → plural verb*)
- The car, with all its passengers, was damaged in the accident. (*Subject = car → singular verb*)

Rule 13: Some subjects may **look plural** but represent one title, subject, activity, or idea. Therefore, they take a **singular verb**.

This includes:

- Titles of books, movies, and other single works
- Names of countries, organisations, and other single entities
- Subjects such as **mathematics, physics, economics, gymnastics, news, and measles**

Examples:

- Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is one of my favourite books.
(A book title is treated as one entity.)
- Economics is an important subject for understanding money and markets.

Rule 14: Words or phrases inside **parentheses ()** provide extra information but are **not part of the subject**. The verb agrees with the main subject outside the parentheses.

Examples:

- The books (**including the new novels**) are on the shelf. (*Subject = books → plural verb*)
- The teacher (**along with her assistants**) is preparing the students. (*Subject = teacher → singular verb*)

Rule 15: Words that refer to a category or collection of items, such as **stationery, furniture, clothing, footwear, and equipment**, are treated as singular subjects and take singular verbs.

Examples:

- The stationery is of good quality.
- The equipment is ready for the experiment.



Rule 16:

The expressions *the number of* and *a number of* take different verbs.

- **The number of + plural noun refers to the total count and takes a singular verb.**
- **A number of + plural noun means several or many and takes a plural verb.**

Examples:

- The number of books in the library is growing rapidly.
- A number of students have volunteered for the community service programme.



Exercise:1

Choose the correct verb from the brackets.

1. Everyone in the class _____ (feel/feels) excited about the science exhibition.
2. The captain, along with his teammates, _____ (is/are) preparing for the match.
3. A pair of scissors _____ (was/were) missing from the art room.
4. Two-thirds of the students _____ (has/have) submitted their projects.
5. The furniture in the new classroom _____ (look/looks) beautifully arranged.
6. The team _____ (is/are) discussing their individual strategies before the competition.
7. One of the boys _____ (play/plays) the piano very well.

8. The students, as well as their teacher, _____ (is/are) planning a field trip.
9. The teacher and the coordinator _____ (attend/attends) the meeting.
10. Two-thirds of the work _____ (has/have) already been completed.

Exercise 2: Error Detection and Correction

Directions: Read the following sentences carefully. Identify whether each sentence is correct or incorrect. If the sentence is incorrect, rewrite it with the correct verb.

1. Both of us has enormous potential to succeed in life.
Correct/Incorrect: _____
Correction: _____
2. The number of applicants have increased significantly this year.
Correct/Incorrect: _____
Correction: _____
3. A number of applicants is waiting outside the office.
Correct/Incorrect: _____
Correction: _____
4. Every student and every teacher are required to attend the orientation.
Correct/Incorrect: _____
Correction: _____
5. None of the information are useful.
Correct/Incorrect: _____
Correction: _____

Exercise 3:

Challenge Activity: Mini Story Edit.

Directions: Rewrite the paragraph below so that every verb agrees with its subject.

There is many events during Spirit Week. The class decorate the hallway, and everyone wear bright colours. Neither the principal nor the teachers plan to miss the fun. On the walls hangs posters, and one-half of the students is carrying banners. Cheering for the teams are a favourite tradition. Spirit Week becomes a memorable event when everyone works together.

