



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

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WORKSHEET No. 26	Topic: SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT 	Note: NOTEBOOK

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

The verb must agree with the subject of a sentence in number (singular or plural) and person (first, second or third).

First, Dhani **climbs** the mango tree. (Singular)
Then, the children **climb** after her. (Plural)
They **are** very fond of mangoes, but I **am** not.



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.



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

Here are a few points to remember about subject-verb agreement.



Rule:1

If two subjects are joined by and, the verb will be plural. However, if the two subjects refer to the same person or thing, the verb will be singular.



*Joseph and Viraat **are** close friends.*

*Rice and dal **is** a staple meal in many parts of India.*

Note: if the article is used once, the two nouns refer to the same person or thing and the verb is singular.



*The poet and statesman **is** dead.*

If the article is used twice, the two nouns refer to two different persons or things and the verb used is plural.

*The priest and the leader **have** come.*



Rule:2

The following indefinite pronouns are singular and take singular verbs.

Anything	no one	nothing
Each	everybody	everyone
Everything	either	neither
nobody		

*Everyone **is** busy watching the cricket match.*

*Every man, woman and child **was** present in the room.*



Rule:3

When the subjects are connected by or, nor, either....or, neithernor, the verb agrees with the nearest subject.



*Either Susan or her parents **were** travelling to New York.*

*Neither the singers nor the guitarist **was** able to reach on time.*



Rule:4

A plural verb is used with the pronouns both, few, many and several, which are always plural:

*Both of them **play** the flute very well.*



*Few parents **read** this article.*

Several road signs **need** to be removed.



Rule:5

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 the bananas **are** ripe.*

*Some of the water **is** impure.*



Rule:6

Sometimes the subject comes after the verb. Remember that the form of the verb will depend on whether the subject is singular or plural.



*There **are** five apples in the refrigerator.*
*Here **is** the book you were looking for.*



Rule:7

Words like scissors, shoes, trousers and spectacles, in which two components are always thought together, take a singular verb.



*This pair of trousers **is** brown.*
*This pair of scissors **belongs** to her.*

However, when we do not use **a pair of**, such words take a plural verb.



*My shoes **are** dirty.*
*The trousers **are** lying in the laundry bag.*



Rule:8

A collective noun takes a singular verb when the class it names is considered as a unit.



*The jury **is** unanimous in verdict.*
*The staff **works** extra hours on Monday.*



Rule:9

Titles of single entities (books, organizations, countries, etc.) and Plural form subjects with a singular meaning (such as mumps, home economics, social studies economics, measles, calisthenics, statistics, civics, physics, gymnastics, phonics, news, acrobatics, aesthetics, thesis, mathematics etc are always singular.



*The Grapes of Wrath **takes** a long time to read.*
*Gymnastics **is** his favourite sport.*
*Mathematics **is** the science of pure quantity.*



Rule:10

Some nouns are also used in the plural sense:




***Riches** do not last forever. Riches have wings.*
*A **means** to an end.*

No *news* is good news.
The *odds* are against us.


 **Rule:11**

When a second subject is introduced by ‘together with, with, as well as, or along with, the verb agrees with the number and person of the first subject.

 *Himanshu, along with his friends, is planning to visit the nearest bakery.*
The children, as well as their nurse, were in a jolly mood.


 **Rule:12**

Parentheses are not part of the subject.

 *Joe (and his trusty mutt) was always welcome.*

 **Rule:13**

When plural number applies to distances, heights, weights, or an amount of money, it is taken as a whole and a singular verb is used.

 *The thousand rupees is what he owes to me.*
Sixty kilometres is a long drive.


 **Rule:14**

Some nouns which are singular in form, verb are used in a plural sense.

 *These poultry are mine.*
These vermin do much harm.

 **Rule:15**

There are some nouns which are either not used in the plural , or are used in the plural in some special sense.

 *Take my advice and study hard.*
There is some fine scenery in Kashmir (not, there are some fine sceneries...).
Do you like poetry? (Not, poetries).



Rule:16

Some nouns have the same form for the plural as well as for the singular.



A *deer* has beautiful eyes.
He lived for four *score* years.



Exercise:1

Choose the correct form of the verb given in the brackets and complete the sentences.

1. Neither Raman nor her sister _____(is/are) brave.
2. One of the boys (has/have) arrived at the gate.
3. The players, as well as the captain _____ (is/are) practicing hard for next week's match.
4. The quality of these mangoes _____ (is/are) delicious.
5. The girl and her parents _____ (is/are) waiting outside the Principal's door.
6. The audience _____ (was/were) cheering with gusto.
7. 100 metre race _____ (need/needs) quickness.
8. Two-thirds of the books on the shelf _____ (is/are) mine.
9. The teacher with her students _____ (was/were) present at the exhibition.
10. The long and the short of the matter _____ (be) that he is guilty of the crime.



Exercise:2

Identify the errors in these sentences, if any. Rewrite them correctly in your notebook.

1. Much of the coffee have spilled over.
2. The cattle is grazing in the field.
3. Watching movies and reading books is my hobbies.
4. Nobody in the class knows the answer to these questions.
5. The bus with all the students are stuck in the traffic jam.
6. Each of these questions have to be answered.
7. There were six chocolates in the fridge in the morning. Now, there are none.
8. A fleet of ships are docked here.
9. Iron ore, as well as copper, is found in this area.
10. The noted orator and scholar has arrived for the function.



Exercise: 3

Match the columns to make complete sentences.

Column A	Column B
Cricket and football	is an Olympic sport.
Germany	were available in the library.
The morning news	is not working.
Einstein's ideas	are coming to my party.
One of the rats	is interested in the students' progress.
A lot of the books	has helpful weather updates.
A lot of my friends from school	were revolutionary.
My TV, as well as my refrigerator,	was in the kitchen.
Gymnastics	have many fans in India.
Every teacher, counsellor, and coach	has the second largest population in Europe.

