



## WORKSHEET – SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Class: X

Sub: ENGLISH COMMUNICATIVE

To use any language effectively, it is important to be familiar with its grammatical rules and structures. The subject-verb concord is one the basic rules that we have in any language. When it comes to English Language, these are rules one needs to follow: There are 3 basic elements in any sentence:

- Subject(doer)
- Verb (word denoting action)
- Object (receiver)

### BASIC RULES

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

E.g. He plays football. (SINGULAR)

They play football. (PLURAL)

**She** writes every day.

They write every day.

The rabbits are sitting in the basket.

The rabbit is standing on the log.

2. **Singular indefinite pronoun subjects like "each," "each one," "either," "neither," "everyone," "everybody," "one," "anyone," "anybody," "nobody," "somebody, someone, something, "nothing, "anything", everything, and "no one" are singular and require a singular verb.**

**Example:** Each of the participants was willing to be recorded.

**Neither** alternative hypothesis was accepted.

I will offer a \$5 gift card to **everybody** who participates in the study.

**No one** was available to meet with me at the preferred times.

Each does a good deal of work around the office.

3. **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.**

e.g. None of the mango is eaten raw.

None of workers are here.

4. **The number of the subject (singular or plural) will not change due to words/phrases in between the subject and the verb OR When a phrase comes between the subject and the verb, remember that the verb still agrees with the subject, not the noun or pronoun in the phrase following the subject of the sentence.**

**The student**, as well as the committee members, is excited.

**The student** with all the master’s degrees is very motivated.

**The focus** of the interviews was nine purposively selected participants. (A phrase or clause between subject and verb does not change the number of the subject.

One of the glasses is empty. (Here, since the subject is ‘one’, the verb should be ‘is’).

The bouquet of red roses smells so sweet. (Here, since ‘bouquet’ is the subject and not ‘roses’, the verb should be ‘smells’ and not ‘smell’)

5. **When the subject is followed by words such as ‘as well as’, ‘along with’, ‘besides’, ‘not’ etc. ignore them and use a singular verb if the subject is singular.**

Examples: 1. Matt, as well as his dog, is expected shortly.

Pratik, along with his brother, is going to school.

*The politician, along with the newsmen, is expected shortly.*

*Excitement, as well as nervousness, is the cause of her shaking.*

**The President**, accompanied by his wife, **is** traveling to India.

**All of the books**, including yours, **are** in that box.

6. **If two singular nouns refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular. If the article is mentioned twice, then two distinct persons are intended, and the verb used must be plural.**

Eg: The singer and songwriter has arrived.

Eg: The singer and the songwriter have arrived.

7. **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: The Arabian Nights is a classic work of literature.

Gulliver's Travels is an interesting book.

- 8. A collective noun takes a singular verb when the collection is thought of as one whole. It takes a plural verb when the individuals of which it is composed are thought of.**

Eg: The committee has made its judgement.

The committee are not united about the decision.

- 9. Nouns such as 'mathematics', Physics, economics, measles, cards, aerobics, 'civics', 'news' etc. while plural in form, are singular in meaning and use singular verbs.**

Eg: The news is on the television tonight.

Mathematics is a very complex subject.

Mathematics is very difficult for some people.

The news is very saddening

- 10. Uncountable nouns like advice, media, stationery, weather, progress are singular and take a singular verb.**

- 11. 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.**

e.g. The committee agrees on this decision.

A group of people meets every week.

- 12. 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.**

Examples: The pliers are in the toolbox.

A pair of pliers is in the toolbox.

- 13. In sentences beginning with "there is" or "there are," the subject follows the verb. Since "there" is not the subject, the verb agrees with what follows the verb.**

There are many **factors** affecting teacher retention.

Here are the chocolates.

There is a big puddle on the road.

There are four hurdles to jump.

There is a high hurdle to jump.

Here are the keys.

There **are** many questions.

There is a question.

14. In sentences that include sums of money, periods of time or distances etc. (as a unit), use singular verbs

e.g. 500 rupees is a high price to pay.

62 years is the minimum age of retirement.

10 kilometers is too far to walk.

*Three miles is too far to walk.*

*Five years is the maximum sentence for that offense.*

*Ten dollars is a high price to pay.*

**BUT**

The word **dollars** is a special case. When talking about an amount of money, it requires a singular verb, but when referring to the dollars themselves, a plural verb is required.

**Five dollars is** a lot of money.

**Dollars are** often used instead of rubles in Russia.

15. When singular subjects are connected by *or*, *either/or*, or *neither/nor* require a singular verb.

*Examples: Neither Raju nor Sheela has come first in the race.*

*No scholarship or reward was given to the student who stood first in the examination.*

*Either China or Malaysia has the chance to win the world cup in badminton.*

*My aunt or my uncle is arriving by train today.*

*Neither Juan nor Carmen is available.*

*Either Kiana or Casey is helping today with stage decorations.*

16. When the subjects connected by ‘or’ or ‘nor’ are of different persons, the verb should agree in person with the subject nearest to it. /The verb in a sentence containing ‘or’, ‘either/or’, ‘neither/nor’ agrees with the noun or pronoun closest to it.

Examples: Neither the shoes nor the bag matches the dress. (Here, ‘bag’ is closest to the verb, hence ‘matches’)

Neither the bag nor the shoes match the dress. (Here, ‘shoes’ is closest to the verb, hence ‘match’)

Neither the plates nor the serving bowl goes on that shelf.

Neither the serving bowl nor the plates go on that shelf.

Neither he nor I have any objection to your plan.

Either you or Rashmi has to own the responsibility for the mishap.

17. With words that indicate portions—e.g., *a lot*, *a majority*, *some*, *all* in a sentence, pay attention to the noun after ‘of’. If the noun after ‘of’ is singular then use a singular verb, if plural, use a plural verb.

e.g. All of the cake is gone.

All of the cakes are gone.

A lot of the cake is gone.

A lot of the cakes are gone.

Some of the cake is gone.

Some of the cakes are gone.

A lot of the **pie** has disappeared.

A lot of the **pies** have disappeared.

**18. As a general rule, use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by *and*.**

*Example: A car and a bike are my means of transportation.*

*Tobacco and alcohol are injurious to health*

**19. When two singular Nouns connected by ‘and’ express one idea, they are followed by a singular verb.**

e.g. Age and experience brings wisdom to man.

Slow and steady wins the race.

Bread and butter is what the poor want.

**20. Many refers to number. It is plural and takes a plural verb. Much refers to quantity or amount. It is singular and takes a singular verb.**

e.g. Many roses these days have no fragrance at all.

Much of the country was flooded.

### **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.**

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-**

Choose the correct subject verb combinations in the sentences below.

- a. The lady in the car----- (look/looks) like your mother.
- b. Most of the milk----- (is/are) gone.
- c. One of the flowers----- (has/have) wilted.
- d. Either Ram or Shyam----- (is/are) coming today.
- e. Here----- (is/are) the newspaper.
- f. Civics----- (is/are) my favorite subject.
- g. Either my father or my mother----- (is/are) at school
- h. One of my friends----- (is/are) going to London on a trip.
- i. The man, with all the cats----- (live/lives) on my street.
- j. The movie, including the previews, -- (take/takes) about two hours to watch.
- k. The players, as well as the captain, ----- (want/wants) to win.
- l. Two thirds of the city----- (is/are) in ruins.
- m. The committee members ----- (lead/leads) very different lives in private.