

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

RULES:

1. The subject and verb must agree in person and number. If the subject is singular, the verb should also be singular. If the subject is plural, then the verb must also be plural.

Singular Subject → Singular Verb

Eg: I am in the classroom.

Plural Subject → Plural Verb

Eg: They are in the classroom.

2. When two or more singular subjects/nouns are joined together, a plural verb is used.

Eg: Mr. and Mrs. Kapoor are going to the market.

3. When two subjects together express one idea, or refer to one person, singular verbs are used.

Eg: Earning your bread and butter is essential for living.

Tom and Jerry series is a funny series.

The orator and statesman is dead.

(NOTE: The article 'the' is used only once when the two nouns refer to the same person. If different persons were referred to, the article would be used before each noun and the verb would be plural. The orator and the statesman are dead.)

4. Nouns like glasses, spectacles, pants, scissors, trousers, shoes, people, police always take a plural verb.

Eg: Your shoes are glossy.

(NOTE: These nouns when used with "a pair of" take singular verbs - *A pair of branded shoes is* quite expensive these days.)

5. Nouns like news, physics, economics, measles, cards are in plural form, but they take a singular verb.

Eg: *Aerobics is* good exercise.

6. Plural nouns which denote some specific quantity or amount, take a singular verb.

Eg: *Two-thirds of the city is* in ruins.

Five thousand rupees is too much for this saree.

7. Everybody, everyone, somebody, nobody, anybody, anyone, each , every always take a singular verb.
Eg: *Everybody is coming to the party.*
Nobody is perfect in this world.
Every boy and every girl was given vaccination.
Each of the hens was sick.
8. If subjects are joined by ‘or’, ‘nor’, ‘either’, ‘neither’, the verb agrees with the subject nearest to it.
Eg: *Neither he nor his sister was there.*
He or his friends are to be blamed.
For once, neither the reporters nor the chief minister is present.
9. If the subjects are joined by ‘with’, ‘as well as’, ‘in addition to’, ‘together with’, the verb agrees with the first subject irrespective of whether it is singular or plural.
Eg: *Maya as well as her parents is coming to the function.*
The party workers along with the politician are expected shortly.
10. The title of a book, play, story, film or a proper name is plural, it takes a singular verb.
Eg: *The Three Musketeers is a good book.*
The United Nations is working towards world peace.
11. A collective noun takes a singular verb when the collection is thought as one whole. It takes a plural verb when the stress is on the individuals.
Eg: *The cartel of oil supplying countries has submitted its report.*
The cartel of oil supplying countries are divided over the issue.
12. If the subjects are joined by “Not only....but also”, the verb agrees with the subject nearest to it.
Eg: *Not only proteins but also vitamin A is essential for children.*
Not only the teacher but also the students are eager to get back to the school.
