



Subject–Verb Agreement

Definition

Subject–verb agreement means the verb in a sentence must agree with its subject in number, person, and gender.

Basic Rules

- **Singular subject → Singular verb**
 - A boy reads a book.
- **Plural subject → Plural verb**
 - Boys read books.
- **In simple present tense, if the subject is third person singular, the verb takes –s or –es.**
 - He writes a letter.
 - She watches TV.

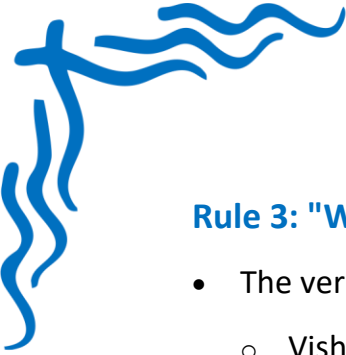
Rules with Examples

Rule 1: Introductory "There"

- The verb agrees with the real subject that comes after it.
 - There is a bird in the cage.
 - There are three books on the table.

Rule 2: Subjects Joined by "And"

- Two or more singular subjects joined with “and” take a plural verb.
 - Rahul and Sujit are best friends.
- But if the subjects refer to one idea, use a singular verb.
 - Bread and butter is my favourite.
 - My friend, philosopher, and guide is no more.



Rule 3: "With" / "As well as"

- The verb agrees with the first subject only.
 - Vishal as well as Sumit is coming.
 - The duck with ducklings is swimming.

Rule 4: Either...or / Neither...nor

- **If both subjects are singular** → singular verb
 - Either Simran or Preeti is to blame.
 - Neither Priya nor Kavya is sporty.

Rule 5: Indefinite Pronouns

- **Each, Either, Neither, Everyone, One** → Singular verb
 - Each of the girls sings well.
 - One of the boys has left.

Rule 6: Quantifiers

- **Much, a little, many a** → Singular verb
 - Too much of everything is bad.
 - Many a girl has refused to join.
- **A few, several, both, many** → Plural verb
 - Several trees have been cut.

Rule 7: Collective Nouns

- Treated as singular
 - The class has fifty students.
 - The army has brave soldiers.

Rule 8: Plural Nouns with Singular Meaning

- Use a singular verb
 - Mathematics is tough.

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- The news is true.

Rule 9: Country Names with "States" or "Kingdom"

- Use a singular verb
 - The United States has 50 states.

Rule 10: Use of "The" before each noun

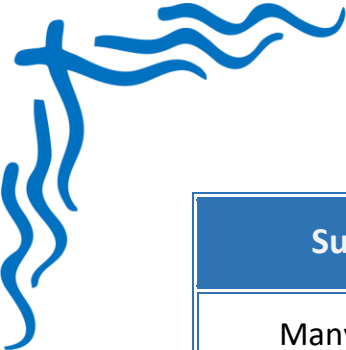
- If two different persons/things are meant → Plural verb
 - The coach and the captain have been dismissed.

Important Points to Remember

- Verb agrees with subject in number and person.
- Always find the real subject of the sentence.
- Don't be misled by words between the subject and the verb.

Examples Recap

Subject	Verb
The girl	is singing
The girls	are singing
Birds	fly
My friend, philosopher and guide	is here
Bread and butter	is tasty
Vishal as well as Sumit	is going
Either Ravi or Riya	is guilty
Neither of the boys	is late



Subject	Verb
Many a child	has returned
Both the students	are ready
Mathematics	is my favourite subject
The news	is shocking
The United Kingdom	is a union of countries
The coach and the captain (2 people)	hav been punished