



Hi, I am EeeBee



Subject – Verb Agreement

Learning Outcomes

- Students will understand the rules of subject-verb agreement in sentences.
- They will learn how to match singular and plural subjects with the correct verb form.
- They will identify and correct errors in subject-verb agreement.
- They will apply subject-verb agreement rules accurately in writing and speaking.



Lead in

See the picture and mark the number of person and verb used for each.

(a)



The girl is singing.

(b)



The girls are singing.

(c)



Birds fly in the sky.

Subject Verb Agreement

A verb in a sentence must match with its subject in number, person and gender. This is called subject-verb agreement.

Read the following sentences:

1. A boy reads a book.
subject verb

2. Boys read books.
subject verb

In sentence 1, the subject **boy** is in the singular. So, the verb **reads** will also be the singular.

In sentence 2, the subject **boys** is in the plural. So, the verb **read** will also be the plural.



Grammar Byte

- If the subject is singular in number, the verb should also be singular in number.
- If the subject is plural in number, the verb should also be plural in number.
- If the subject is in the third person singular, main verb in the simple present tense takes -s or -es ending.



In Subject verb agreement, a verb must agree in number and person with its subject.

Examples :

1. **I am** sad.
2. **They are** sad.
3. **He is** sad.

In sentence 1, the verb **am** agrees with the subject **I**.

In sentence 2, the verb **are** agrees with the subject **we**.

In sentence 3, the verb **is** agrees with the subject **he**.



Grammar Byte

- ◉ *Singular subjects take Singular verbs.*
- ◉ *Plural subjects take Plural verbs.*

The Introductory 'There'

When a sentence begins with **there**, the verb agrees with the real subject that comes after the verb.

Examples :

1. There is a bird in the cage.
verb subject
2. There are three books on the table.
verb subject



Grammar Byte

- ◉ *The verb must agree with the actual subject and not the word placed just before it.*

A. Two or more Singular subjects joined with "AND"

- If the subject consists of two or more singular subject joined with **and**, it takes a plural verb.

Example : Rahul, Vikarm and Sujit are best friends.

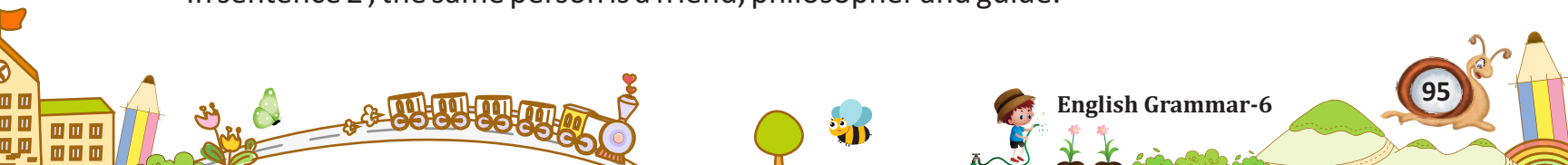
- If two nouns suggest **one idea or refer to the same person or things**, it takes singular verb.

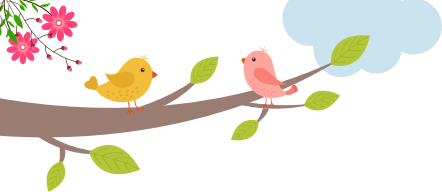
Examples :

1. Bread and butter is my favourite.
2. My friend, philosopher and guide is no more.

In sentence 1, the subjects bread and butter suggest one idea.

In sentence 2, the same person is a friend, philosopher and guide.





B. With or As well as

When the subject consists of two nouns or pronouns joined with **with** or **as well as** the verb agrees with the first subject.

Examples :

1. Vishal as well as Sumit is going to meet you.
2. The duck with all the ducklings is swimming in the pond.
3. The dogs with the puppies are barking at the strangers.
4. You as well as Megha are accountable for this.

C. When two or more subjects in the singular are joined after or, nor in the pair either or, neither nor, the verb will be in Singular.

Examples :

1. Either Harpreet **or Gurmeet is** a genius.
2. Either Simran **or Preeti is** to blame.
3. Neither Priya **nor Kavya is** sporty.

D. Each, Either, Neither, Every, Everyone, One of them take a Singular verb.

Examples :

1. Either of the two boys is a singer.
2. Each of these girls sings well.
3. Every child in the world deserves affection.
4. One of the boys has left the game.
5. Everyone knows her well.
6. Neither of the two girls is responsible.

E. Much, a little, Many a are followed by a Singular verb.

Examples :

1. Only a little of the work has been left.
2. Many a girl has refused to take part in the competition.
3. Too much of everything is bad.

F. A few, Several, Both, Many are always followed by Plural verb.

Examples :

1. Many of these people were present there.
2. A few of these boys are naughty.
3. Both the leaders are honest.
4. Several trees have been cut down.





G. A collective noun takes a Singular verb.

Examples :

1. The class has fifty students.
2. The army has brave soldiers.

H. Nouns which are plural in form but singular in meaning take a Singular verb.

Examples :

1. The information you gave me is absolutely true.
2. The news of his arrival is true.

I. When the names of country take word "States and Kingdom", it takes a Singular verb.

Examples :

1. The United States of America has 50 states.
2. The United Kingdom is a country that is a union of the countries.

J. If the definite article the is used before each of the two nouns then two distinct persons are meant and the verb is used in the Plural number.

Examples :

1. The coach and the captain have been dismissed from the post.
2. The director and the producer have been awarded.



Spot the Error

- ⊙ *Nobody were in the hall.*

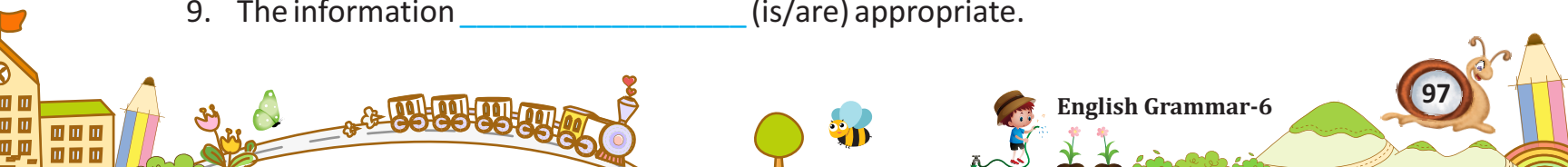
- ⊙ *Everyone are busy in their work.*

A. Fill in the blanks choosing the correct form of the verb that agrees with the subject.

1. The birds _____ (fly/flies).
2. Our teacher _____ (was/were) absent yesterday.
3. My uncle _____ (has/have) two sons.
4. They _____ (do/does) not eat non-veg.
5. The teachers of our school _____ (love/loves) us.
6. Lions _____ (hunt/hunts) in a group.
7. Mathematics _____ (is/are) a difficult subject.
8. The news _____ (is/are) true.
9. The information _____ (is/are) appropriate.



Skills/Level
READING & WRITING/A2





10. The children _____ (was/were) playing in the park.
11. The price of gold _____ (has/have) gone up.
12. The mother of my friend _____ (looks/look) kind.
13. The monitor of our class _____ (need/needs) appreciation.
14. The mother of these children _____ (cook/cooks) food for them.
15. Dolly and her brothers _____ (is/are) at school.

B. Tick (✓) the correct option.



Skills/Level
WRITING/A1

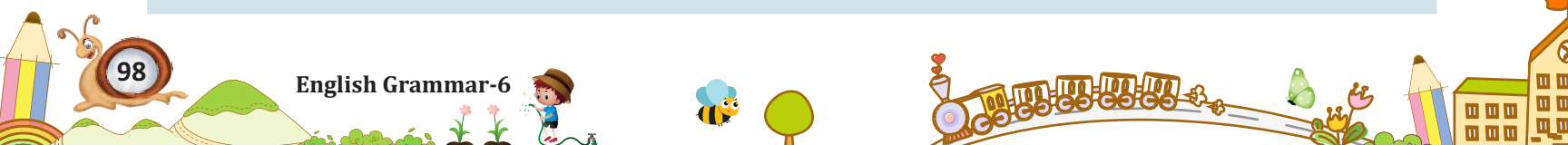


1. The boys _____ playing cricket.
(a) is ☐ (b) are ☐ (c) was ☐
2. All parents _____ their children.
(a) love ☐ (b) loves ☐ (c) loving ☐
3. The Sun _____ in the east.
(a) rise ☐ (b) rises ☐ (c) rising ☐
4. Economics _____ a difficult subject.
(a) is ☐ (b) are ☐ (c) were ☐
5. Nobody _____ the trouble I've faced.
(a) know ☐ (b) knows ☐ (c) knowing ☐
6. All that glitters _____ not gold.
(a) is ☐ (b) are ☐ (c) were ☐
7. Either answer _____ acceptable.
(a) is ☐ (b) are ☐ (c) has ☐
8. Fifty rupees _____ the price of this chocolate.
(a) is ☐ (b) are ☐ (c) were ☐



Points to Remember

- ⊙ A verb must agree with its subject in number. This is called **Subject-verb agreement**.
- ⊙ If the subject is singular in number, the verb should also be **Singular**.
- ⊙ If the subject is plural in number, the verb should be **Plural**.
- ⊙ If the subject is in the third person singular, main verb in the simple present tense takes -s or -es ending.
- ⊙ When a sentence begins with *there*; the verb agrees with the real subject that comes after the verb.
- ⊙ If the subject consists of two or more singular subject joined with *and*, it takes a **Plural verb**.
- ⊙ If two nouns suggest only one idea or refer to the same person or things, the verb must be **Singular**.





My Activity Corner

Match the sentence beginning to the appropriate endings.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. His trousers | (i) are grazing in the field. |
| 2. The cattle | (ii) is going to meet you. |
| 3. Not everyone | (iii) was given a prize by the chief guest. |
| 4. Each of the players | (iv) are torn. |
| 5. Raj as well as Sumit | (v) is able to learn this. |



My EeeBee Interactive Activities



Listening



Speaking



Reading



Writing



Grammar



Vocabulary

WRITE YOUR SCORE

Practice your LSRW Skills



on Communication Lab

