

# **SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT**

# **BASIC RULE:**

- Singular subjects must have singular verbs.  
Plural subjects take plural verbs.

# **RULES ON SUBJECT- VERB AGREEMENT**

# ***1. The pronoun “YOU” always takes a plural verb.***

Examples:

- You were invited to come.
- You are asked to clean the room.
- You sing so well.



***2. If a sentence begins with **HERE** or **THERE**, the verb agrees with the subject which follows it.***



Examples:

- Here are the ways on how to preserve meat.
- There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor.



***3. If two subjects, one single and one plural, are connected by EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.***

Examples:

- Neither the players nor the coach is joining.
- Either the conductor or the singers are attending the concert.



***4. A singular subject followed by intervening words or phrases such as WITH, AS WELL AS, IN ADDITION TO, ACCOMPANIED BY, TOGETHER WITH and NO LESS THAN, takes a singular verb.***

Examples:

- Jake, accompanied by his sisters, is enrolling in PCC.
- Daddy, as well as my brothers, is enjoying the party.



***5. Singular subjects joined by AND require a plural verb, except when they mean one thing.***

Examples:

- Larry and Mercy are reading novels.
- My teacher and friend is here.





***6. Two singular subjects joined by EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR take a singular verb.***

Examples:



- Either Mommy or Daddy is coming with me at the outbound.
- Neither Ferdie nor Dulce is waiting for you.

***7. If a singular subject is followed by a phrase containing a plural noun, the verb is singular.***

Examples:



- One of the boys is yelling so loud.
- One of the members is against the rule.

**8. The indefinite pronouns *SEVERAL, FEW, BOTH, MANY, OTHERS* are always plural.**

Examples:



- Both were asking to be freed.
- Several are seeking justice.

***9. The indefinite pronouns SOME, MOST, ALL, NONE are singular or plural according to the meaning of the sentence.***

Examples:

- Some of the girls were absent.
- Some of the ice cream is left.



**NONE**  
enter

**10. When any of the following indefinite pronouns is the subject, the verb is singular: EVERYBODY, EACH, NO ONE, ANOTHER, ANYBODY, NOBODY, EVERY, NOTHING, EVERYTHING, ANYONE, EITHER, NEITHER, EVERYONE, SOMEBODY, SOMEONE.**

Example:

- Every man and woman in this hall is a member.



# ***11. Expressions of time, money, weight, and distance are singular even if the form is plural.***

Examples:



- Two years is a long time to wait.
- One million dollars was given back to the owner.



***12. When the amount of money refers to separate units, the verb is plural.***

Examples:

- Five 25-centavo coins were found.
- Sixty 100-peso bills were added to the budget.



***13. The following words are always plural: PANTS, TROUSERS, PLIERS, SCISSORS, SHEARS, TONGS. However, if the word PAIR is used, the verb is singular.***

Examples:

- The pants are torn into two.
- The pair of scissors was placed on the table.





***14. Certain nouns, though plural in form, are singular in meaning and therefore take singular verbs.***

Examples:

- Mathematics is my favorite subject.
- The latest news is alarming to the public.



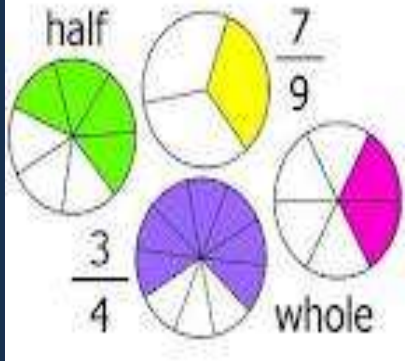
***15. When the word is preceded by A, it takes a plural verb. When it is preceded by THE, it takes a singular verb.***

Examples:

- A number of students are waiting outside.
- The number of students outside is not recorded yet.



***16. When fractions are used, the verb agrees with the object of the OF PHRASE.***



Examples:

- One half of the cake was consumed.
- One fourth of the employees were attending the seminar.

**17. These nouns may be singular or plural in meaning: ATHLETICS, GENETICS, POLITICS, GYMNASTICS, STATISTICS. When the noun refers to an organized activity, it is singular; when the noun refers to the activities of individuals within a group, or to varied activities, it is plural.**



Examples:

- Gymnastics is very popular among girls.
- The gymnastics shown in the field today were outstanding.

***18. The name of a country is always regarded as singular.***

Examples:

- The Bahamas has beautiful beaches.
- Philippines is a wondrous place.



# ***19. Adjectives used as nouns are considered plural.***

Examples:

- The poor are to be helped.
- The efficient are what this country needs.



***20. Collective nouns may be singular or plural depending on whether the individual members are acting individually or collectively. These nouns are: COMPANY, GROUP, COMMITTEE, CROWD, JURY, FLOCK, TEAM.***

Examples:



- The committee is against the plan. (acting collectively-singular)
- The committee are of different opinion. (acting individually-plural)

***21. In the use of mathematical expressions, the following are accepted:***

Examples:

- Seven plus three is ten.
- Seven and three are ten.
- Five times two are ten.
- Five minus two is three.





***22. Titles of books, plays, articles, movies, etc. are regarded as singular even though words in the title may be plural.***

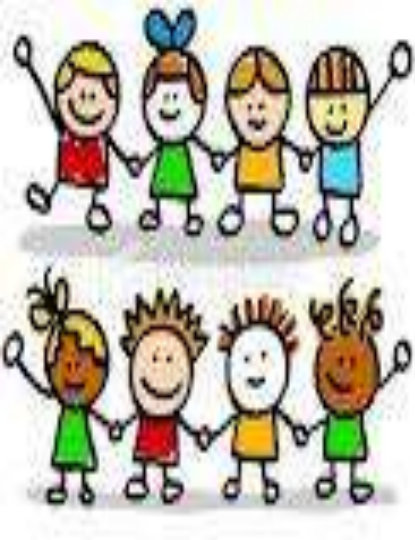
Examples:



- “In Dreams Begin Responsibilities” is a story by D. Schwartz.
- “Great Expectations” is a must-read novel.

***23. Names of organizations take a singular verb when the whole organization is referred to, and a plural verb when the members are referred to.***

Examples:



- Lopez and Sons is a successful organization.
- Lopez and Sons are holding a two-day annual meeting.

***24. If a sentence begins with the expletive IT, the verb is always singular even if the subject that follows the verb is plural.***

Examples:

- It is the schools which must assume the responsibility.
- It is us who must take care of the environment.





## REFERENCES:

- Communication Arts 1
  - Essentials of English
- Complete Course in College English

