

SUBJECT AND VERB AGREEMENT - Rules

<p><b>Review:</b> 1. The subject of a sentence 2. Singular and Plural Verbs</p>
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Rule 1

A singular subject takes a singular Verb.

- e.g. (1) The boy **walks** to school. (Singular Subject – The Boy). (Singular Verb – walks).  
(2) My mother **cooks** delicious foods. (Singular Subject – My Mother. (Singular Verb – Walks)

Rule 2

A plural subject takes a plural Verb.

- e.g. (1) The men **work** in the city. (Plural Subject – The men). (Plural Verb – work)  
(2) The ducks **swim** in the pond. (Plural Subject – The ducks). (Plural Verb - swim)

Rule 3

If two subjects are joined by **and** (whether the subjects are singular or plural), they require a plural Verb.

- e.g. (1) Mary **and** her friends **study** together. (Subject – Mary and her friends). (Plural Verb – study).  
(2) She **and** I **have** similar computers. (Subject – She and I). (Plural Verb – have).

Rule 4

The Pronouns **each, everyone, everybody, anyone, anybody, someone, somebody, no one, everything,** etc. ALWAYS take a singular Verb.

- e.g. (1) Each of the girls **dances** well. (Singular Verb because of the Pronoun each).  
(2) Somebody **talks** too much. (Singular Verb because of the Pronoun somebody).

Rule 5

The Pronouns **I** and **You** take a plural verb.

- e.g. (1) **I walk** to school every day. (Plural Verb because of the Pronoun I).  
(2) **You are** late. (Plural Verb because of the Pronoun You)

**EXCEPTION** - We always say I was.

- e.g. I was driving slowly when I got a flat tyre.

Rule 6

A Collective Noun when singular, takes a singular Verb. When plural, it takes a plural Verb.

- e.g. (1) A flock of birds **flies** overhead. (Singular Collective Nouns – flock). (Singular Verb – flies).  
(2) Many packs of cards **were** left on the table. (Plural Collective Noun – packs). (Plural Verb – were).

Use Rules 1 – 6 to underline the correct Verb in the sentences below

- 1 David (work, works) every day.
- 2 The nurses (march, marches) for better working conditions.
- 3 The children (play, plays) in the park.
- 4 The sprinter (exercise, exercises) around the track everyday.
- 5 The players (is, are) going to the restaurant after the game.
- 6 Alex (has, have) two older brothers who play cricket as well.
- 7 The teacher (agree, agrees) that I should revise more at home.
- 8 My best friend (was, were) there when I arrived.
- 9 Daddy (drive, drives) his van to work every day.
- 10 My cousin and his sister (visit, visits) our grandparents together.
- 11 She and I (is, are) best friends.
- 12 The parents and teachers (meet, meets) on Tuesday afternoons.
- 13 John and Josh (swim, swims) well.
- 14 Annie and her brother (is, are) at school.
- 15 George and Tamara (doesn't, don't) want to see that movie.
- 16 None of our dogs (was, were) awarded a prize.
- 17 Nobody (want, wants) to go with her.
- 18 Each of us (has, have) the right to tell the truth.
- 19 Each of the girls (look, looks) good in high heels.
- 20 Everybody (was, were) asked to remain quiet.
- 21 Nobody in the class (has, have) the answer.
- 22 Each of the boys (observe, observes) the rules.
- 23 I (travel, travels) to school by bus.
- 24 I (prepare, prepares) breakfast for the family.
- 25 You (write, writes) legibly.
- 26 I (go, goes) to church on Sundays.
- 27 You (need, needs) to take a rest.
- 28 You (make, makes) the best pizza.
- 29 A flock of birds (is, are) flying southward.
- 30 The box of potatoes (was, were) rotten
- 31 Bunches of grapes (has, have) been placed on the table.
- 32 A swarm of bees (attack, attacks) on if disturbed.
- 33 The new suit of clothes (look, looks) on my brother.
- 34 A bouquet of flowers (was, were) given to the best student.
- 35 Loaves of bread (was, were) handed out during the flood.

36 A class of students (sing, sings) the National Anthem every Monday morning.

37 A herd of cows (graze, grazes) in the open pasture.