

English

Subject Verb Agreement

Rule No.	Rule Description	Example(s)	Exceptions / Notes
1	A singular subject takes a singular verb , and a plural subject takes a plural verb .	She goes to school. They go to school.	None
2	Two subjects joined by ' and ' usually take a plural verb .	Ram and Shyam are friends.	If both refer to the same person/thing , use singular verb: Bread and butter is his breakfast.
3	Two singular nouns joined by ' or ', ' nor ', ' either...or ', ' neither...nor ' take a singular verb .	Either Ravi or Raju is responsible. Neither Rani nor Reema has come.	If subjects differ in number, verb agrees with nearer subject. Either he or his friends are coming.
4	Indefinite pronouns like everyone , someone , each , either , neither , one take singular verbs .	Everyone wants to win. Neither was selected.	Some indefinite pronouns like some , all , few , many may be plural depending on usage.
5	Collective nouns take singular verb when acting as one unit .	The team is playing well.	Take plural verb when members are acting individually : The team are arguing among themselves.
6	A plural noun name of a country, book, subject, etc., takes singular verb .	The United States is powerful. Mathematics is tough.	None
7	When amount, distance, period, or quantity is considered as a whole , use singular verb .	Five years is a long time. Ten rupees is not enough.	If parts are emphasized, use plural : Five years have passed.
8	When a sentence begins with ' There ' or ' Here ', the verb agrees with the real subject .	There are many books on the table. There is a pen.	Locate the actual subject after there/here .
9	Titles of books, movies, subjects take singular verb .	"The Chronicles of Narnia" is interesting.	None
10	Uncountable nouns take singular verb .	Water is essential. Information was given.	None
11	Gerund phrases or Infinitives as subjects take singular verb .	Swimming is good for health. To err is human.	None
12	Words like ' with ', ' together with ', ' as well as ', ' in addition to ' do not make the subject plural.	The teacher, along with students, is present.	Ignore the additional subject – verb agrees with main subject.
13	When fraction or percentage is used, the verb agrees with the noun that follows ' of '.	50% of the work is done. 50% of the people are present.	Focus on the object of ' of ' (singular/plural) to determine verb form.
14	Nouns plural in form but singular in meaning take singular verb .	Economics is boring. News is surprising.	None
15	If the subject is ' none ', verb may be singular or plural depending on the context.	None has arrived. None were missing.	Use plural if referring to countable people/things.



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