




Subject-verb Agreement



 Read these sentences.

- My sister **is** very naughty.

The subject **my sister** is singular and so the verb is also singular.

- Rustam and Sohrab **were** Persian heroes.

The subject is **Rustam and Sohrab** (they are two men). Since the subject is plural, we use the plural verb **were**.

In a sentence, the **verb** and the **subject** should agree. **Singular subjects** agree with **singular verbs** and **plural subjects** agree with **plural verbs**.

He/She/It/You/
singular subject

+

verb + s/es

I/You/We/They/
plural subject

+

verb

Note: I is singular but it is an exception as it agrees with **am/was**.

1. Fill in the blanks with the correct verbs from the brackets.

- The girl jumps (jump/jumps) with joy.
- The little girl speaks (speak/speaks) with affection.
- The boy binds (bind/binds) the books all by himself.
- The leaves fall (fall/falls) in autumn.
- My brother and sister argue (argue/argues) over small things.



f. The little baby sleeps (sleep/sleeps) all the time.

g. The three little pups drink (drink/drinks) milk.



h. My neighbours converse (converses/converse) in Marathi.

i. All footballers kick (kick/kicks) the ball effortlessly.

j. The children walk (walks/walk) to the bus stop every day.



Rules for subject-verb agreement.

- ◆ When the subject of a sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns joined by **and**, we use a plural verb. For example,

My brothers and sister **are** flying to Dubai.

- ◆ When a phrase comes between the subject and the verb, the verb agrees with the subject and not with the noun or the pronoun in the phrase. For example,

One of my friends **was** afraid to fly.

The colours of the rainbow **are** beautiful.

Geeta, along with her friends, **is** going to the mall.

Meher, as well as her friends, **is** visiting the museum.

- ◆ When two nouns are joined by **or**, **neither...nor** or **either...or**, the verb agrees with the part of the subject that is closer to the verb. For example,

Meera or her friends **have** the keys of the house.

Meera's friends or she **has** the keys of the house.

Neither Mani nor Radha **has** a pet.

Either Priya or her friends **are** going to the fair.



2. Choose the correct options from the brackets to complete these sentences.

a. We have (has/have) bought tickets for the rock concert.

b. Tapan and his friend are (is/are) at school.

c. Each of the girls wears (wear/wears) a school uniform.

- d. Mahi or Samuel is (is/are) to be blamed for the mishap.
- e. Some of the students have (has/have) left the classroom for lunch.
- f. Either my mother or my father is (is/are) coming for the function.
- g. The dog or the cats are (is/are) outside.
- h. Either my towel or your towel is (is/are) always on the floor.
- i. Michael and Lazen are (is/are) going to the fair.
- j. Ruchi and Anush are (is/are) going shopping this Saturday.
- k. One of my friends is (is/are) going on a trip to France.
- l. The woman along with all her dogs lives (live/lives) in my courtyard.
- m. The players as well as the captain has (has/have) a reservation in this hotel.
- n. Either of the answers is (is/are) acceptable.
- o. Some of the students are (is/are) reading books.
- p. There were (was/were) fifteen cookies in that jar. Now there is (is/are) only one left!
- q. The teacher and his son have (has/have) come to the school.
- r. The minister along with his wife visits (visit/visits) the embassy.
- s. Each of the students is (is/are) interested in photography.
- t. Neither the school boys nor their coach was (was/were) tired after a two-hour football match.





Read these sentences.

- **Every** passenger **was** ready to board the plane.
- **Everybody** **was** shocked by the news.
- **None** of the children **knows** about the test.
- **Each** boy and girl **was** given a gift.



The words **each, every, everyone, everybody** and none are used with singular verbs.

3. Fill in the blanks with the correct verbs from the brackets.

- Every child and every mother was (was/were) given a prize.
- Each nail and nut was (was/were) pulled out.
- Everyone is (is/are) happy.
- None of the children was (was/were) sleeping.
- Everybody in our class plays (play/plays) basketball.
- The mosquito stings (stings/sting) people mercilessly.
- The street was (was/were) full of people.
- The butterflies flit (flit/flits) from flower to flower.
- A bulldog has (has/have) strong teeth.
- Have (Have/Has) all the delegates arrived?
- Are (Is/Are) your assignments ready?
- Was (Was/Were) the stranger a man or a woman?
- Am (Am/Are) I right in my argument?
- Do (Do/Does) I sound correct?
- Does (Do/Does) the boy like the food?

