

## Subject And Verb Agreement

- The verb must agree with its subject in number and person.
- If the subject is singular, the verb will also be singular. If the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.

Eg., I am, we are, you are , he is, she is, it is , they are...

1. **Two or more singular subjects connected by and usually take a verb in the plural:** as,  
Eg., Raja and Gopal **are** friends
2. **If two singular nouns refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular. The article is used once when the two nouns refer to the same person; as,**  
Eg., The secretary and correspondent **has** come.  
**If different persons were referred to, the article would be used before each noun and the verb would be plural; as,**  
Eg., The secretary and the correspondent **have** come.
3. **If two subjects together express one idea, the verb may be in singular;** as,  
Eg., Bread and butter **is** wholesome food
4. **Either, neither, any, each, everyone, many a, must be followed by a singular verb;**  
Eg., Neither of them **is** good at English  
Eg., Many a man **has done** this before
5. **Nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone, something, should be followed by a singular verb;**  
Eg., Nobody **works** harder than Alex does.  
Eg., Something **is** better than nothing.
6. **Two or more singular subjects connected by or, nor, either.....or, neither... nor take a verb in singular;**  
Eg., Either abdul or rahim **has** taken your pen.
7. **When subjects joined by or, nor are of different numbers, the verb must be plural and the plural subject ,must be placed next the verb;**  
Eg., Sita or her parents **have** come
8. **When the subjects joined by or, nor, are of different persons, the verb agrees in person with the subject nearer to it;**  
Eg., Either you or he **has** done it.

9. **A collective noun takes a singular verb when the collection is thought of as one whole; plural verb when the individuals of which it is composed are thought of; as,**  
Eg., The committee **has** chosen its president.
10. **If a title of a literary work, or the name of a house or a hotel, is a plural, for purpose of agreement it is treated as a singular, since it is only one title or one building**  
Eg., Gulliver's travels **was** written by Swift.
11. **When the subject is one of, followed by a plural noun, the verb is singular.**  
Eg., One of my friends **has** gone abroad
12. **When the subject is the formal there, the verb agrees with the real subject that follows it.**  
Eg., There **are** many books in our library.
13. **When a plural number applies to distances, weights, heights or amounts of money, and represents a single figure or quantity, it is treated as a singular and takes a singular verb.**  
Eg., Fifty kilometers **is** a good distance.
14. **Class nouns such as clothing, food, furniture, crockery, cutlery, stationery and footwear are singular, and must therefore take a singular verb.**  
Eg., The furniture **is** very old.  
Much food **was** wasted.
15. **A pair of when applied to things where the two components are always thought of together is singular**  
Eg., There **is** a pair of scissors on the table.  
But if you omit the words "a pair of" and merely use the plural word, then, of course, it must take a plural verb  
Eg., Those scissors **are** costly.
16. **"A lot of", "a great deal of", "plenty of", "most of", and "some of" are singular when they refer to amount or quantity, but plural when they refer to number**  
Eg., A lot of work **is** still pending
17. **Poultry, people and cattle are plural.**  
Eg., Those poultry **are** mine
18. **Some nouns which are plural in form, but singular in meaning, take a singular verb: news, politics, economics, physics, ethics, civics, innings, mathematics, etc.,**  
Eg., No news **is** good news  
The first innings **is** over

**19. Words joined to a singular subject by with, together with, in addition to, or, as well as, etc., are parenthetical, and therefore do not affect the number of the verb; as**

Eg., The chief with his followers **was** present there.

**20. One should be followed by one**

Eg., One should do **one's** duty

**21. In the present tense of most English verbs the third person singular ends in S**

Eg., She **speaks** English fluently

**22. None can take either a singular or plural verb depending on the noun which follows it.**

**None + of the + non-count noun+ singular verb**

Eg., None of the counterfeit money **has** been found.

**None+ of the + plural count noun+ plural verb**

Eg., None of the students **have** finished the exam yet.