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.