

SUBJECT - VERB AGREEMENT

[BCECE – LE 2025]

1. Basic Rule: Singular vs. Plural

- **Rule:** Singular subjects take singular verbs, and plural subjects take plural verbs.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The dog **barks** loudly.*
 - *The dogs **bark** loudly.*
 - *The teacher **teaches** English.*
 - *The teachers **teach** English.*
 - *A bird **flies** high.*
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2. Compound Subjects Joined by "and"

- **Rule:** When subjects are joined by "and," use a plural verb.
- **Examples:**
 - *The boy and the girl **are** here.*
 - *The teacher and the principal **have** arrived.*
 - *Bread and butter **make** a great breakfast.*
 - *Tom and Jerry **fight** often.*
 - *Joy and happiness **fill** the room.*

Exception: If the compound subject refers to a single entity, use a singular verb.

- *Peanut butter and jelly **is** my favourite sandwich.*
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3. Subjects Joined by "Either or" or "Neither nor"

- **Rule:** When subjects are joined by "or" or "nor," the verb used according to the subject closest to it.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Either the cat or the dogs **are** outside.*
 - *Neither the boys nor the girl **was** late.*
 - *Either the teacher or the students **have** to leave.*
 - *Neither the players nor the coach **was** ready.*
 - *Either he or they **are** responsible.*
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4. Indefinite Pronouns

- **Rule:** Some indefinite pronouns are always singular (each, everyone, someone), while others are plural (many, few, several).

Singular Indefinite Pronouns

Examples of Singular Indefinite Pronouns:

- **Each:** *Each student has submitted their assignment.*
- **Everyone:** *Everyone is excited about the trip.*
- **Someone:** *Someone left their umbrella in the classroom.*
- **Anybody:** *Does anybody know the answer?*
- **Nobody:** *Nobody likes to be ignored.*
- **One:** *One should always do their best.*
- **Either:** *Either option is fine with me.*
- **Neither:** *Neither of the answers is correct.*
- **Much:** *Much has been said about the topic.*
- **Little:** *Little is known about the history.*

- **Examples (Singular):**

- *Everyone **loves** pizza.*
- *Someone **is** waiting outside.*
- *Each of the students **has** a book.*
- *Everybody **enjoys** a holiday.*
- *One of them **is** missing.*

Plural Indefinite Pronouns

These pronouns are always treated as plural, meaning they take plural verbs.

Examples of Plural Indefinite Pronouns:

- **Many:** *Many are interested in learning new skills.*
- **Few:** *Few have completed the assignment on time.*
- **Several:** *Several are planning to attend the concert.*
- **Both:** *Both have expressed their opinions on the matter.*
- **All:** *All are welcome to join the discussion.*
- **Most:** *Most of the students have passed the exam.*
- **These:** *These are the best cookies I've ever tasted.*
- **Those:** *Those are my favourite shoes.*

- **Examples (Plural):**

- *Many **were** disappointed.*
- *Few **have** arrived.*
- *Several **are** missing.*
- *Both **know** the answer.*
- *Few **were** chosen.*

Indefinite Pronouns that Can Be Singular or Plural

Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural depending on what they refer to.

- **None:**
 - Singular: *None of the information is correct.*
 - Plural: *None of the students were absent.*
- **All:**
 - Singular: *All of the cake is gone.*
 - Plural: *All of the cookies were eaten.*
- **Most:**
 - Singular: *Most of the milk was spilled.*
 - Plural: *Most of the players have arrived.*
- **Some:**
 - Singular: *Some of the cake is left.*
 - Plural: *Some of the players are injured.*

Summary of Indefinite Pronouns

- **Always Singular:** Each, everyone, someone, anybody, nobody, one, either, neither, much, little.
- **Always Plural:** Many, few, several, both, all, most, these, those.
- **Can Be Singular or Plural:** None, all, most, some.

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5. Collective Nouns

Definition: Collective nouns refer to a group of individuals or things treated as a single entity. Examples include "team," "group," "family," "audience," and "committee." The verb form depends on whether the collective noun acts as a single unit or if the members are acting independently.

Rule

- **Singular Verb:** Use a singular verb when the collective noun is acting as one unit.
- **Plural Verb:** Use a plural verb when emphasizing the individuals within the group acting separately.

Examples Explained

Singular Examples

1. The team is winning.

- *Explanation:* The team (as one entity) is performing well in the game.

2. The jury has reached a verdict.

- *Explanation:* The jury collectively made a decision.

3. The committee decides tomorrow.

- *Explanation:* The committee will make a decision together as a unit.

4. The family is going on vacation.

- *Explanation:* The family (as a single group) is taking a trip together.

5. The crowd was silent.

- *Explanation:* The crowd acted as a single unit in remaining quiet.

Plural Examples

1. The team are wearing their uniforms.

- *Explanation:* The individual members of the team are each wearing their own uniforms.

2. The jury are arguing with each other.

- *Explanation:* The members of the jury are having a disagreement among themselves.

3. The committee have different opinions.

- *Explanation:* The individual members of the committee hold different views.

4. The family are taking separate trips.

- *Explanation:* Each member of the family is going on a different vacation.

5. The crowd were cheering individually.

- *Explanation:* Each person in the crowd is cheering on their own, rather than as a unified group.

Summary

- When a collective noun acts as a single entity, use a singular verb.
- When the focus is on the individual actions of the members of the group, use a plural verb.
- **Examples (Singular):**
 - *The team **is** winning.*
 - *The jury **has** reached a verdict.*
 - *The committee **decides** tomorrow.*
 - *The family **is** going on vacation.*
 - *The crowd **was** silent.*
- **Examples (Plural):**
 - *The team **are** wearing their uniforms.*

- *The jury **are** arguing with each other.*
 - *The committee **have** different opinions.*
 - *The family **are** taking separate trips.*
 - *The crowd **were** cheering individually.*
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6. Nouns that Are Singular in Meaning but Plural in Form

Certain nouns may look plural because they end in "-s," but they are actually **singular** in meaning and take a **singular verb**. These nouns usually refer to fields of study, diseases, or collective ideas.

The nouns that look plural but take singular verbs often fall into three main categories:

1. **Fields of Study:** These include academic subjects like **mathematics, economics, physics, statistics, linguistics, psychology, and sociology**. They look plural due to the "s" ending, but they represent single areas of study.
2. **Diseases:** Names of certain diseases, particularly those with an "s" ending, also follow this rule. Examples include **diabetes, measles, mumps, rickets, and pneumonia**. These words refer to single medical conditions, not multiple entities.
3. **Uncountable Collective Concepts:** These include words like **news, ethics, politics, athletics, surveillance, and information**. They refer to collective or abstract concepts that are treated as singular.

- **Rule:** Words like *mathematics*, *news*, and *economics* appear plural but are singular.

Mathematics, news, economics, statistics, politics, physics, gymnastics, linguistics, ethics, billiards, philosophy, psychology, athletics, sociology, civics, tactics, diabetes, measles, mumps, rickets, pneumonia, surveillance, arts, information, folkways.

- **Examples:**
 - *Mathematics **is** difficult.*
 - *The news **was** surprising.*
 - *Economics **requires** understanding.*
 - *Statistics **is** a complex field.*
 - *Politics **is** often divisive.*
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7. Expressions of Amounts

Definition: Expressions of amounts refer to quantities or measurements that can be treated as either singular or plural depending on how they are perceived in the context of a sentence. When the amount is seen as a **single unit**, it takes a singular verb; when it refers to **multiple items** or parts, it takes a plural verb.

Rule

- **Singular Verb:** Use a singular verb when the amount is treated as one unit.
- **Plural Verb:** Use a plural verb when the amount refers to multiple items or components.

Examples Explained

Singular Examples

1. Ten dollars is enough.

- *Explanation:* Here, "ten dollars" is viewed as a single amount of money.

2. Three miles is too far to walk.

- *Explanation:* "Three miles" is treated as one distance to consider.

3. Half of the cake is gone.

- *Explanation:* "Half" is viewed as a single portion of the cake.

4. Four weeks is a long time.

- *Explanation:* "Four weeks" is considered one duration.

5. Twenty minutes is needed.

- *Explanation:* "Twenty minutes" is viewed as one time frame required.

Plural Examples

1. Ten dollars were on the table.

- *Explanation:* In this case, "ten dollars" refers to individual bills or coins on the table, thus treated as plural.

2. Half of the cookies are gone.

- *Explanation:* "Half" refers to multiple cookies that are no longer present.

3. Five kilometres were completed by different runners.

- *Explanation:* "Five kilometres" refers to several kilometres completed by multiple individuals.

4. Two-thirds of the students are absent.

- *Explanation:* "Two-thirds" refers to many students, thus treated as plural.

5. A quarter of the attendees were missing.

- *Explanation:* "A quarter" refers to multiple attendees, so it takes a plural verb.

Summary

When dealing with expressions of amounts, consider whether the amount is a single unit or if it refers to multiple items:

- **Singular usage:** Treat the amount as a single unit (e.g., *ten dollars is enough*).
 - **Plural usage:** Treat the amount as referring to separate items or components (e.g., *ten dollars were on the table*).
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *Ten dollars **is** enough.*
 - *Three miles **is** too far to walk.*
 - *Half of the cake **is** gone.*
 - *Four weeks **is** a long time.*
 - *Twenty minutes **is** needed.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *Ten dollars **were** on the table.*
 - *Half of the cookies **are** gone.*
 - *Five kilometres **were** completed by different runners.*
 - *Two-thirds of the students **are** absent.*
 - *A quarter of the attendees **were** missing.*
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8. Sentences Starting with "There" or "Here"

- **Rule:** In sentences beginning with "there" or "here," the verb agrees with the subject that follows it.
 - **Examples:**
 - *There **is** a book on the table.*
 - *There **are** many books on the shelf.*
 - *Here **comes** the bus.*
 - *There **was** a loud noise.*
 - *Here **are** the documents.*
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9. Subjects with "Each" or "Every"

Words and Expressions that Require a Singular Verb

Each, Every, Either, Neither, Anyone, Everyone, Someone, No one, Somebody, Any, Nobody, Each of, Every one of, Either of, Neither of, One, Either/or, Neither/nor.

- **Rule:** When "each" or "every" precedes the subject, use a singular verb, even with compound subjects.
- When you use certain words that focus on one person or thing—like "each" or "everyone"—you should always use a singular verb. This is true even if you're talking about more than one person or thing.

Examples for Each Word/Expression

1. Each

- *Example:* Each student is responsible for their homework.

- *Explanation:* "Each" refers to individual students, necessitating a singular verb.

2. Every

- *Example:* Every car needs an oil change.
- *Explanation:* "Every" emphasizes individual cars, so the singular verb "needs" is used.

3. Either

- *Example:* Either option is acceptable.
- *Explanation:* "Either" indicates one of two choices, thus requiring a singular verb.

4. Neither

- *Example:* Neither the teacher nor the students are late.
- *Explanation:* "Neither" focuses on the individual subjects, so the singular verb "is" is used with the understanding that it refers to "neither...nor."

5. Anyone

- *Example:* Anyone can join the club.
- *Explanation:* "Anyone" refers to any individual person, requiring the singular verb "can."

6. Everyone

- *Example:* Everyone loves a good story.
- *Explanation:* "Everyone" refers to all individuals collectively, using the singular verb "loves."

7. Someone

- *Example:* Someone has left their umbrella.
- *Explanation:* "Someone" refers to an unspecified individual, necessitating the singular verb "has."

8. No one

- *Example:* No one is perfect.
- *Explanation:* "No one" emphasizes individuality, so the singular verb "is" is used.

9. Somebody

- *Example:* Somebody needs to answer the phone.
- *Explanation:* "Somebody" refers to an individual, requiring the singular verb "needs."

10. Any

- *Example:* Any child can play in the park.
- *Explanation:* "Any" refers to any single child, thus using the singular verb "can."

11. Nobody

- *Example:* Nobody knows the answer.
- *Explanation:* "Nobody" refers to no individual, necessitating the singular verb "knows."

12. Each of

- *Example:* Each of the participants is excited.
- *Explanation:* "Each of" focuses on individuals within a group, using the singular verb "is."

13. Every one of

- *Example:* Every one of the cookies is delicious.
- *Explanation:* "Every one of" emphasizes individual cookies, requiring the singular verb "is."

14. Either of

- *Example:* Either of the books is interesting.
- *Explanation:* "Either of" refers to one of two options, necessitating the singular verb "is."

15. Neither of

- *Example:* Neither of the answers is correct.
- *Explanation:* "Neither of" emphasizes individuality, thus requiring the singular verb "is."

16. One

- *Example:* One of the dogs is barking.

- *Explanation:* "One" refers to a single dog, necessitating the singular verb "is."

17. **Either/or**

- *Example:* Either the cat or the dog is misbehaving.
- *Explanation:* In this construction, "either" refers to one of the two subjects, requiring a singular verb.

18. **Neither/nor**

- *Example:* Neither the manager nor the assistant is available.
- *Explanation:* "Neither/nor" connects the two subjects, but the verb remains singular.

• **Examples:**

- *Each boy and girl **is** present.*
- *Every man and woman **wants** peace.*
- *Each student **has** a book.*
- *Every player **receives** a medal.*
- *Each of them **is** capable.*

10. Titles of Works and Names of Organizations

- **Rule:** When you mention the title of a book, movie, song, or the name of an organization, treat it as a singular noun, even if the title sounds plural. This means you should always use a singular verb with these titles.
- **Examples:**
 - *The Chronicles of Narnia **is** popular.*
 - *Star Wars **was** a success.*
 - *The United Nations **is** meeting today.*

- *The Simpsons **is** on TV tonight.*
- *Harry Potter **is** loved worldwide.*

11. "The Number of" vs. "A Number of"

- **Rule:** "The number of" takes a singular verb; "a number of" takes a plural verb.
- **Examples:**
 - *The number of applicants **is** high.*
 - *A number of applicants **have** been selected.*
 - *The number of cases **has** increased.*
 - *A number of students **are** attending.*
 - *The number of people **is** impressive.*

12. "One of Those Who..."

- **Rule:** When using "one of those who," use a plural verb because it refers to "those."
- **Examples:**
 - *She is one of those people who **enjoy** reading.*
 - *He is one of those students who **study** hard.*
 - *I am one of those people who **like** pizza.*
 - *He is one of the players who **have** scored a goal.*
 - *She is one of those teachers who **encourage** creativity.*

Quick Review

- Always identify the main subject and match it to the correct verb.
- Watch for phrases like *each*, *either/or*, *neither/nor*, and expressions of quantity.
- Remember that some subjects may look plural but are actually singular (e.g., *news*)

13. "None" Can Be Singular or Plural

Rule for "None"

The word "none" can be tricky because it can be either singular or plural, depending on what you mean:

- **Singular Use:** When "none" refers to "not one" or emphasizes the absence of a single item, you should use a singular verb.
- **Plural Use:** When "none" refers to "not any" or emphasizes multiple items, a plural verb can be used.

Examples for Singular Use of "None"

1. None of the money is missing.

- *Explanation:* Here, "none" means "not one (unit of money)," so we use the singular verb "is."

2. None of the cake was left.

- *Explanation:* In this case, "none" refers to "not one piece of cake," requiring the singular verb "was."

3. None is available right now.

- *Explanation:* "None" here indicates "not one item is available," so we use the singular verb "is."

Examples for Plural Use of "None"

1. None of the players are ready.

- *Explanation:* Here, "none" means "not any of the players," so we use the plural verb "are."

2. None of the answers were correct.

- *Explanation:* In this case, "none" refers to "not any answers," so we use the plural verb "were."

3. None were found.

- *Explanation:* Here, "none" means "not any items were found," which calls for the plural verb "were."

Examples (Singular):

- *None of the money **is** missing.*
- *None of the cake **was** left.*
- *None **is** available right now.*

Examples (Plural):

- *None of the players **are** ready.*
- *None of the answers **were** correct.*
- *None **were** found.*

Summary

When using "none," pay attention to what you are talking about. If it's about one thing, use a singular verb. If it's about multiple things, use a plural verb. This flexibility helps keep your sentences accurate!

14. When Using "Who," "Which," or "That" Clauses

- **Rule:** In relative clauses, the verb agrees with the noun to which the relative pronoun refers.
- **Examples:**
 - *She is one of the writers who **have** inspired many.*
 - *He is the only one of the team who **knows** the plan.*

- *The book that **contains** these stories is popular.*
 - *I have friends who **support** my dreams.*
 - *He is one of those people who **enjoy** the outdoors.*
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15. Subjects with "Many a" or "Every"

- **Rule:** Phrases beginning with "many a" or "every" take a singular verb, even if they sound plural.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Many a student **struggles** with math.*
 - *Every man and woman **wants** peace.*
 - *Every house on this block **needs** repairs.*
 - *Many a soldier **was** honoured.*
 - *Every cat and dog **has** a collar.*
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16. "More Than One" Takes a Singular Verb

- **Rule:** Despite seeming plural, "more than one" takes a singular verb.
 - **Examples:**
 - *More than one student **has** failed the exam.*
 - *More than one car **is** needed.*
 - *More than one answer **was** correct.*
 - *More than one person **knows** the secret.*
 - *More than one dog **is** barking.*
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17. When "Majority," "Minority," and "Plurality"

- **Rule:** These words can be singular or plural based on whether they refer to a group acting as one or as individuals.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *The majority **believes** this decision is right.*
 - *A large portion of the audience **was** quiet.*
 - *The minority **disagrees** with the proposal.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *A majority of voters **disagree** with the policy.*
 - *The minority of students **are** protesting.*
 - *The plurality of choices **make** it difficult.*
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18. Subjects in "Either...or" and "Neither...nor" Constructions

- **Rule:** When subjects are joined by "either...or" or "neither...nor," the verb agrees with the nearest subject.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Either the manager or the employees **are** attending.*
 - *Neither the students nor the teacher **is** ready.*
 - *Either the boys or the girl **has** the answer.*
 - *Neither the teacher nor the students **were** prepared.*
 - *Either he or they **are** correct.*
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19. Phrases with "As Well As," "Along With," and "Together With"

- **Rule:** These phrases do not change the number of the subject; the verb agrees with the main subject.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The teacher, as well as the students, **is** excited.*
 - *The manager, along with his assistants, **plans** the event.*
 - *The book, together with its sequel, **is** on the shelf.*
 - *The captain, as well as the crew, **is** prepared.*
 - *The CEO, along with the board members, **attends** the meeting.*
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20. When Using Fractions or Percentages

- **Rule:** When a fraction or percentage modifies a singular noun, use a singular verb. When it modifies a plural noun, use a plural verb.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *One-third of the cake **is** eaten.*
 - *Fifty percent of the task **is** complete.*
 - *Two-thirds of the bottle **was** finished.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *Half of the students **are** present.*
 - *Seventy percent of people **agree** with the decision.*
 - *A third of the cookies **were** eaten.*
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21. With Gerunds and Infinitives as Subjects

- **Rule:** Gerunds and infinitives used as subjects take singular verbs.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Running **is** fun.*
 - *To swim **requires** strength.*
 - *Learning a language **takes** time.*
 - *Dancing **is** her passion.*
 - *To read a novel **is** relaxing.*
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22. Inverted Sentences

- **Rule:** In sentences where the verb comes before the subject, make sure the verb agrees with the subject, not with any words that come before it.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Around the corner **is** a bakery.*
 - *In the basket **are** apples.*
 - *There **go** the children.*
 - *On the hill **stands** a monument.*
 - *In the sky **flies** a kite.*
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23. Collective Amounts Like "Half," "A Third," and "A Quarter"

- **Rule:** Collective amounts followed by a singular or plural noun determine whether the verb is singular or plural.
- **Examples (Singular):**
 - *Half of the pie **was** eaten.*

- *A quarter of the cake **is** left.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *A quarter of the students **are** absent.*
 - *Half of the apples **were** bruised.*
 - *Three-quarters of the houses **were** damaged.*
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24. Subjects with "All," "Some," "More," or "Most"

- **Rule:** Words like "all," "some," "more," and "most" take singular verbs when they refer to singular nouns and plural verbs when they refer to plural nouns.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *All of the cake **is** gone.*
 - *Some of the water **is** evaporated.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *All of the students **are** present.*
 - *Most of the books **were** returned.*
 - *Some of the apples **are** ripe.*
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25. "One of" Followed by a Plural Noun

- **Rule:** When using "one of" followed by a plural noun, use a singular verb after "one of."
- **Examples:**
 - *One of the students **is** absent.*
 - *One of my friends **has** arrived.*
 - *One of the teachers **knows** the answer.*
 - *One of the chairs **is** broken.*

- *One of the candidates **was** selected.*
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26. Subjects That Appear Plural but Are Singular in Meaning

- **Rule:** Certain nouns appear plural but are treated as singular when they refer to a single item or concept, like *news*, *measles*, or *mathematics*.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The news **is** surprising.*
 - *Mathematics **is** challenging for some.*
 - *Economics **requires** detailed study.*
 - *Physics **is** fascinating.*
 - *Linguistics **is** the study of language.*
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27. "A Pair of" Takes a Singular Verb

- **Rule:** When using phrases like "a pair of," the verb agrees with the singular "pair."
 - **Examples:**
 - *A pair of shoes **is** on the floor.*
 - *A pair of scissors **is** in the drawer.*
 - *A pair of glasses **was** found.*
 - *A pair of socks **is** missing.*
 - *A pair of trousers **is** hanging.*
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28. Titles of Books, Movies, and Works of Art

- **Rule:** Titles of books, movies, and works of art take a singular verb, even if they are plural in form.
 - **Examples:**
 - *"The Great Expectations" **is** a classic novel.*
 - *"The Chronicles of Narnia" **is** popular among readers.*
 - *"The Avengers" **is** a hit movie.*
 - *"The United Nations" **was** established in 1945.*
 - *"The Beatles" **is** a legendary band.*
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29. Amounts of Time, Money, or Distance

- **Rule:** Amounts that refer to a total single unit take a singular verb, even if they are plural in form.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Five dollars **is** enough.*
 - *Ten years **is** a long time.*
 - *Fifty miles **is** a long drive.*
 - *Twenty minutes **is** sufficient.*
 - *Two hundred dollars **is** a fair price.*
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30. Using “Every” and “Each” Before Nouns

- **Rule:** When each or every is used with a noun, it requires a singular verb, even with compound subjects.
- **Examples:**
 - *Every student and teacher **is** here.*
 - *Each man, woman, and child **has** a ticket.*
 - *Every cat and dog **needs** care.*
 - *Each participant **is** eligible for a prize.*
 - *Every book and magazine **was** accounted for.*

31. Units of Measurement or Quantities

- **Rule:** When a noun refers to a measurement or quantity considered as a whole, use a singular verb.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Two liters of water **fills** the tank.*
 - *Five kilos of rice **costs** a lot.*
 - *One gallon of milk **is** needed.*
 - *Three meters of cloth **is** enough.*
 - *A dozen eggs **is** in the basket.*
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32. Plural Nouns that Refer to a Single Item

- **Rule:** Some nouns that are plural in form but refer to a single item take a singular verb.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The news **was** announced yesterday.*
 - *Physics **is** difficult for many students.*
 - *Gymnastics **is** her favourite sport.*
 - *Ethics **is** important in every profession.*
 - *Statistics **is** required in many courses.*
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33. Relative Pronouns (Who, Which, That)

- **Rule:** The verb following a relative pronoun (who, which, that) agrees with the noun preceding it.
- **Examples:**
 - *She is one of the people who **work** hard.*

- *It is the only one of the products that **needs** improvement.*
 - *He is the kind of person who **inspires** others.*
 - *These are the rules that **apply** to everyone.*
 - *I am the one who **makes** decisions here.*
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34. Quantities: Collective Nouns that Can Be Singular or Plural

- **Rule:** When referring to a collective noun, it may be singular or plural based on context.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *The committee **decides** today.*
 - *The team **wins** the game.*
 - *The audience **applauds** the actor.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *The committee **are** discussing their views.*
 - *The team **celebrate** their victory.*
 - *The audience **clap** for the performance.*
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35. "One of" Followed by a Plural Noun

- **Rule:** When "one of" is followed by a plural noun, use a singular verb after "one of."
- **Examples:**
 - *One of the children **is** absent.*
 - *One of my friends **lives** here.*
 - *One of these books **is** rare.*
 - *One of the buildings **was** damaged.*

- *One of the reasons **is** valid.*
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36. Subjects with "Any," "More," "Most," and "Some"

- **Rule:** Words like *any*, *more*, *most*, and *some* can take either a singular or plural verb, depending on whether the noun they refer to is countable or uncountable.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *Some of the water **was** spilled.*
 - *Most of the information **is** outdated.*
 - *More of the cake **is** left.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *Some of the books **are** on the table.*
 - *Most of the students **have** finished.*
 - *More of the options **are** available.*
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37. When "What" or "All" Functions as the Subject

- **Rule:** When *what* or *all* is used as the subject, the verb agrees with the intended meaning, either singular or plural.
- **Examples (Singular):**
 - *What **matters** is your effort.*
 - *All that **remains** is hope.*
 - *What **bothers** me is the noise.*
- **Examples (Plural):**
 - *All **are** welcome here.*
 - *What **cause** delays are the traffic jams.*

- *All **belong** to this community.*
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38. Titles of Businesses, Brands, or Organizations

- **Rule:** Names of companies, organizations, or brands take a singular verb even if they sound plural.
 - **Examples:**
 - *General Motors **is** launching a new model.*
 - *Microsoft **has** updated its software.*
 - *United Airlines **offers** great service.*
 - *Procter & Gamble **is** a large company.*
 - *Coca-Cola **was** founded over a century ago.*
-

39. Singular Subjects Followed by "Of" Phrases

- **Rule:** When a singular subject is followed by a phrase starting with "of," the verb should agree with the singular subject, not the object of the phrase.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The bouquet of flowers **is** beautiful.*
 - *The sound of waves **is** soothing.*
 - *The price of groceries **has** increased.*
 - *The texture of these fabrics **is** soft.*
 - *The importance of these principles **is** clear.*
-

40. When Using "A Number of" vs. "The Number of"

- **Rule:** *A number of* is treated as plural, while *the number of* is treated as singular.
 - **Examples:**
 - *A number of students **are** attending the seminar.*
 - *The number of applicants **is** increasing.*
 - *A number of issues **have** been resolved.*
 - *The number of cars **has** decreased this year.*
 - *A number of friends **are** joining the trip.*
-

41. Relative Pronouns with Plural Antecedents

- **Rule:** When a relative pronoun like "who," "which," or "that" refers to a plural antecedent, the verb should agree with the plural noun.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The teachers who **work** here are qualified.*
 - *The ideas that **inspire** change are powerful.*
 - *The people who **support** the cause are admirable.*
 - *The policies which **govern** this office are strict.*
 - *The writers who **contribute** to the blog are talented.*
-

42. Compound Subjects Connected by "Not Only...But Also"

- **Rule:** With compound subjects connected by "not only...but also," the verb agrees with the subject closer to the verb.

- **Examples:**

- *Not only the manager but also the employees **were** present.*
 - *Not only the teachers but also the principal **is** attending.*
 - *Not only the books but also the laptop **was** left behind.*
 - *Not only the parents but also the child **needs** support.*
 - *Not only the singer but also the dancers **perform** well.*
-

43. Subjects Preceded by "A Lot Of," "Plenty Of," "Most Of"

When phrases like "**a lot of**," "**plenty of**," and "**most of**" are used, the verb agreement depends on the noun that follows these phrases.

- If the noun following the phrase is **singular or uncountable**, use a **singular verb**.
- If the noun is **plural**, use a **plural verb**.

This rule is flexible and shifts based on whether the noun after these phrases is treated as a single unit or multiple items.

Common Words That Follow This Rule

- a lot of
- plenty of
- most of
- some of
- none of
- all of

- a lot of, plenty of, most of, some of, none of, all of, half of, a portion of, the majority of, a number of, a bit of, a couple of, a handful of, a fraction of, lots of, an abundance of, a series of, a variety of, a group of, the rest of, a percentage of

Examples

Singular Examples:

1. **A lot of effort** is required to complete this project.
2. **Plenty of milk** is needed for the recipe.
3. **Most of the cake** was eaten before the guests arrived.
4. **Some of the water** is left in the bottle.
5. **None of the advice** is useful in this situation.

Plural Examples:

1. **A lot of people** are joining the event.
2. **Plenty of books** were donated to the library.
3. **Most of the students** have submitted their assignments.
4. **Some of the employees** were late to the meeting.
5. **All of the cookies** are gone from the plate.

44. Collective Nouns as Plural in British English

- **Rule:** In British English, collective nouns like "team" or "government" can take plural verbs, as they are treated as a collection of individuals. (In American English, these are generally singular.)
- **Examples (British English):**
 - *The team **are** celebrating their win.*
 - *The government **have** announced a new policy.*

- *The family **are** moving to a new home.*
 - **Examples (American English):**
 - *The team **is** celebrating its win.*
 - *The government **has** announced a new policy.*
 - *The family **is** moving to a new home.*
-

45. "The Majority of" Can Be Singular or Plural

- **Rule:** *The majority of* can be singular or plural, depending on whether it refers to individuals or a single collective group.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *The majority of the team **is** ready.*
 - *The majority of the work **was** completed.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *The majority of voters **have** decided.*
 - *The majority of participants **are** excited.*
 - *The majority of the emails **were** sent.*
-

46. "More Than One" Followed by a Plural Verb in Some Contexts

- **Rule:** While "more than one" generally takes a singular verb, it can take a plural verb in informal usage or certain contexts.
- **Examples:**
 - *More than one person **has** commented.*
(formal/singular)

- *More than one participant **were** seen discussing.*
(informal/plural)
 - *More than one student **is** absent today.*
 - *More than one friend **was** there.*
-

47. Subjects Joined by "As Well As" or "Along With"

- **Rule:** When two subjects are joined by *as well as*, *along with*, or similar phrases, the verb agrees with the first subject.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The teacher, along with the students, **was** present.*
 - *The CEO, as well as the board members, **approves** the decision.*
 - *The dog, along with its puppies, **is** sleeping.*
 - *John, as well as his friends, **enjoys** hiking.*
 - *The manager, along with her team, **has** completed the project.*
-

48. The Construction "The Only One of Those Who"

- **Rule:** In phrases like "the only one of those who," use a plural verb after "who" because it refers to the plural noun before it.
- **Examples:**
 - *She is the only one of those students who **have** passed the exam.*

- *He is the only one of the members who **were** nominated.*
 - *This is the only one of the books that **contain** the information.*
 - *You are the only one of the candidates who **have** experience.*
 - *She is the only one of the applicants who **qualify** for the job.*
-

49. Relative Pronouns with Collective Nouns as Antecedents

- **Rule:** When a relative pronoun (like "who" or "that") follows a collective noun, the verb can be singular or plural, depending on the emphasis on the group as a whole or as individuals.
 - **Examples (Singular):**
 - *The team that **is** winning deserves praise.*
 - *The family who **lives** here **is** friendly.*
 - **Examples (Plural):**
 - *The team who **are** celebrating are thrilled.*
 - *The staff that **are** on duty **have** been working hard.*
-

50. Collective Nouns with a Focus on Action by Members

- **Rule:** When focusing on the members of a collective noun performing individual actions, a plural verb is used.
- **Examples:**

- *The committee **are** arguing among themselves.*
 - *The jury **were** divided in their opinions.*
 - *The audience **are** clapping their hands.*
 - *The crew **are** preparing individually for the trip.*
 - *The orchestra **are** tuning their instruments.*
-

51. Inverted Sentences Starting with "Here" or "There"

- **Rule:** In sentences that begin with "here" or "there," the verb should agree with the true subject, which often comes after the verb.
 - **Examples:**
 - *Here **are** the keys you lost.*
 - *There **is** a book on the table.*
 - *Here **comes** the train.*
 - *There **were** two dogs in the park.*
 - *Here **are** your files.*
-

52. Indefinite Pronouns with Dependent Clauses

- **Rule:** When an indefinite pronoun is followed by a clause that contains a plural noun, the verb still agrees with the singular pronoun, not the plural noun.
- **Examples:**
 - *Each of the students who **has** completed the assignment will receive credit.*
 - *Anyone who **knows** the rules can participate.*
 - *Everybody who **wants** to join is welcome.*

- *Someone who **reads** often is more knowledgeable.*
 - *Anybody who **has** questions can ask.*
-

53. Collective Nouns with Possessive Pronouns

- **Rule:** When referring to a collective noun with possessive pronouns, the pronoun and verb can be plural if emphasizing the members individually.
 - **Examples:**
 - *The jury **gave their** verdict after deliberating.*
 - *The family **had their** own opinions about the trip.*
 - *The crew **share their** stories with each other.*
 - *The team **have their** routines for the game.*
 - *The audience **showed their** appreciation.*
-

54. Relative Pronoun "Which" Referring to the Entire Clause

- **Rule:** When *which* refers to an entire preceding clause, the verb following *which* is typically singular.
- **Examples:**
 - *She failed the exam, which **is** unfortunate.*
 - *The storm caused delays, which **was** expected.*
 - *He bought a car, which **is** a great decision.*
 - *The event was cancelled, which **is** disappointing.*
 - *They moved to a new city, which **is** exciting.*

Subject-Verb Agreement Practice Questions

1. Each of the players _____ (is/are) ready for the match.

Answer: is

2. A number of students _____ (has/have) completed their assignments.

Answer: have

3. The number of cars in the parking lot _____ (is/are) increasing.

Answer: is

4. None of the cake _____ (was/were) left after the party.

Answer: was

5. Either the teacher or the students _____ (is/are) responsible for the project.

Answer: are

6. Everyone in the class _____ (has/have) a notebook.

Answer: has

7. The jury _____ (has/have) reached its verdict.

Answer: has

8. Neither the cat nor the dogs _____ (is/are) outside.

Answer: are

9. Each student and teacher _____ (is/are) invited to the ceremony.

Answer: is

10. The committee _____ (decides/decide) on the new policy tomorrow.

Answer: decides

11. A pair of shoes _____ (was/were) found in the hallway.

Answer: was

12. The news about the storm _____ (is/are) alarming.

Answer: is

13. Five miles _____ (is/are) too far to walk.

Answer: is

14. Both of the answers _____ (is/are) correct.

Answer: are

15. None of the information _____ (was/were) useful.

Answer: was

16. The team _____ (is/are) winning the game.

Answer: is

17. A number of books _____ (has/have) been returned.

Answer: have

18. The flock of birds _____ (is/are) flying south for the winter.

Answer: is

19. Each of the girls _____ (has/have) a new dress.

Answer: has

20. The couple _____ (was/were) very happy together.

Answer: was

21. There _____ (is/are) many reasons to study.

Answer: are

22. Neither of the answers _____ (is/are) correct.

Answer: is

23. Everyone in the group _____ (has/have) a different opinion.

Answer: has

24. Each boy and girl _____ (is/are) required to attend.

Answer: is

25. A number of people _____ (is/are) waiting for the bus.

Answer: are

26. The team _____ (has/have) its own unique style.

Answer: has

27. The data _____ (was/were) analysed carefully.

Answer: was

28. Both of the students _____ (was/were) present.

Answer: were

29. None of the chocolate _____ (was/were) eaten.

Answer: was

30. Either the manager or the employees _____ (is/are) to blame.

Answer: are

31. A committee of experts _____ (is/are) meeting today.

Answer: is

32. The number of applicants _____ (is/are) increasing each year.

Answer: is

33. The flock of sheep _____ (is/are) grazing in the field.

Answer: is

34. Many of the flowers _____ (is/are) blooming beautifully.

Answer: are

35. Each of the teachers _____ (has/have) a different style.

Answer: has

36. The police _____ (is/are) investigating the case.

Answer: are

37. None of the equipment _____ (was/were) damaged in the storm.

Answer: was

38. A group of students _____ (is/are) attending the conference.

Answer: is

39. The crowd _____ (was/were) cheering loudly.

Answer: was

40. Each dog and cat _____ (is/are) welcome in the park.

Answer: is

41. Several of the reports _____ (is/are) due tomorrow.

Answer: are

42. The team of engineers _____ (has/have) finished the project.

Answer: has

43. The news from the front lines _____ (is/are) troubling.

Answer: is

44. A variety of options _____ (is/are) available.

Answer: are

45. Each person in the meeting _____ (has/have) a chance to speak.

Answer: has

46. The class _____ (is/are) going on a field trip.

Answer: is

47. The majority of the group _____ (has/have) decided to go.

Answer: have

48. None of the facts _____ (is/are) relevant.

Answer: are

49. The committee _____ (decides/decide) on the new rules soon.

Answer: decides

50. Both of the solutions _____ (was/were) effective.

Answer: were

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