



INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR

Class: VII	Department: ENGLISH	Date of Submission: AUGUST, 2022
Worksheet No. 9	Topic: SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT	Note: To be done in the notebook

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Look at these sentences.

The show 'Masha & the Bear' focuses on the adventures of a little girl named Masha and her caring friend, the bear that always keeps her safe from disasters. Masha and the Bear are inseparable friends. Masha is a mischievous 3-year-old girl who lives in an old train station in the forest. She constantly plays pranks and makes a mess, while the Bear tries to educate her.



As you can see, the verb changes when the subject before the verb changes. This is known as agreement of subject and verb. The basic rule states that a singular subject takes a singular verb, while a plural subject takes a plural verb.

The verb must agree with the subject of a sentence in number (singular or plural) and person (first, second or third).



When the subject of a sentence is singular, the verb must also be singular. When the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.

Singular Verbs	Plural Verbs
1. is, was	1. are, were
2. goes	2. go
3. does	3. do
4. has	4. have
5. Any verb + 's' behind e.g. walk+ s	5. Any verb + without 's' behind e.g. walk



✓ The puppy plays with the bone.
singular subject + singular verb

✓ The puppies play with the bone.
plural subject + plural verb



Here are a few points to remember about subject-verb agreement.

Rule:1

If two subjects are joined by and, the verb will be plural. However, if the two subjects refer to the same person or thing, the verb will be singular.

- *Jerry and his brothers are travelling across the country this summer.*
- *The horse and carriage is at the door of the palace.*
- *Bread and butter is available on request.*

Note: if the article is used once, the two nouns refer to the same person or thing and the verb is singular.

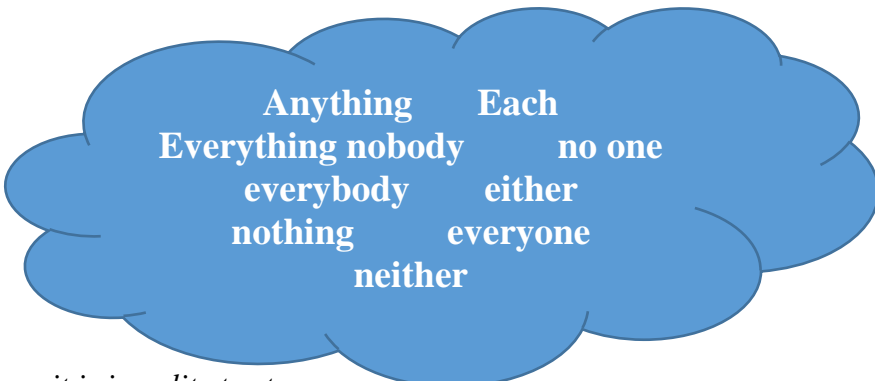
- *My friend and neighbor is here.*

If the article is used twice, the two nouns refer to two different persons or things and the verb used is plural.

- *The priest and the leader have come.*

Rule:2

The following indefinite pronouns are singular and take singular verbs.



Anything Each
Everything nobody no one
everybody either
nothing everyone
neither

- *Everyone knows it is impolite to stare.*
- *Each of the ladies has a designer handbag.*
- *Nobody is disappointed with the results.*

Rule:3

When the subjects are connected by or, nor, either.... or, neither nor, the verb agrees with the nearest subject.

- *Either Sarah or Tom has the exam schedule.*
- *Neither snakes nor rats are considered good pets.*
- *Either the teacher or the students are bringing the books.*

Rule:4

A plural verb is used with the pronouns both, few, many and several, which are always plural:

- *Both of us have enormous potential to succeed in life.*
- *Few parents read this article.*
- *Several dogs were adopted over the weekend.*

Rule:5

Some of, half of (and any other fraction of) take a plural verb if the reference is to number (i.e. to the things that are countable), but takes a singular verb if the reference is to amount or quantity (i.e. uncountable).

- *Some of the cake is burned. [Some refers to cake and is singular]*
- *Some of the cans are expired. [Some refers to cans and is plural]*
- *Most of the hair is lost. [Most refers to hair and is singular]*
- *Most of the blankets are dirty. [Most refers to blankets and is plural]*

Rule:6

Sometimes the subject comes after the verb. Remember that the form of the verb will depend on whether the subject is singular or plural.

- *There have been complaints about you recently.*
- *Here is my wallet.*

Rule:7

Words like scissors, shoes, trousers and spectacles, in which two components are always thought together, take a singular verb.

- *This pair of trousers is brown.*
- *This pair of scissors belongs to her.*

However, when we do not use a pair of, such words take a plural verb.

- *My shoes are dirty.*
- *Those trousers are made of wool.*

Rule:8

A collective noun is a name for a group of people or things such as "family," "class," "pack," "bouquet," "pair," and "flock." Use a singular verb when the members of the group are acting together as a unit.

- *Your bunch of keys (considered as a collective unit) is next to the door.*
- *The group agrees that new curtains would improve the space.*

Use a plural verb when the members of the group are acting as individuals.

- *The old group have gone their separate ways.*

Rule:9

Titles of single entities (books, organizations, countries, etc.) and Plural form subjects with a singular meaning (such as mumps, home economics, social studies economics, measles, calisthenics, statistics, civics, physics, gymnastics, phonics, news, acrobatics, aesthetics, thesis, mathematics etc are always singular.

- *The Burbs is a movie starring Tom Hanks.*
- *Statistics is Jake's favorite subject.*

Rule: 10

When a second subject is introduced by 'together with, with, as well as, or along with, the verb agrees with the number and person of the first subject.

- *The candidate, along with her supporters, leaves the building.*
- *The employees of the organization, as well as the CEO, have an interest in the project's success.*
- *The ship, with its crew, was saved.*

Rule:11

'A number of (some countable noun)' is always plural. 'The number of (some countable noun)' is always singular.

- *A number of students are going on the trip.*
- *The number of people we need to hire is thirteen.*

Rule: 12

When plural number applies to distances, heights, weights, or an amount of money, it is taken as a whole and a singular verb is used.

- *Four quarts of oil was required to get the car running.*
- *Ten minutes is enough time to get there*



Exercise:1

Choose the correct form of the verb given in the brackets and complete the sentences.

1. Ann of Green Gables _____ (was/were) my favourite book as a child.
2. Ten years _____ (is/are) a long time to wait.
3. Sixty percent of the books _____ (is/are) in Spanish.
4. Neither Suman nor his sisters _____ (has/have) been here.
5. The general, along with his regiment, _____ (has/have) arrived.
6. Each participant _____ (has/have) a piece of paper.
7. Either Denis or the boys _____ (know/knows) what happened.
8. Two-fifths of the vineyard _____ (was/were) destroyed by fire.
9. Neena is one of the candidates who _____ (is/are) sure to win.
10. The leader, with several of his followers, _____ (was/were) captured by the police.



Exercise:2

Complete these sentences by supplying a verb in agreement with the subject.

1. The orchestra _____ leaving the party.
2. Some of the grain _____ gone bad.
3. Sam's trousers _____ made in London.
4. Gymnastics _____ easy for Roy.
5. Either you or your friend _____ to pay for it.
6. The cabinet _____ this law passed.
7. The stationary _____ in the drawer.
8. The poet and philosopher _____ inaugurating the ceremony.
9. The number of voters _____ been higher this year.
10. The police _____ after the criminals.



Exercise: 3

Tick (✓) the sentence in which the subjects and verbs agree.

1. A pride of lions are sunning itself under the tree. Can you see them?
A pride of lions is sunning itself under the tree. Can you see them?
2. Mary, as well as her friends, has decided not to go.
Mary, as well as her friends, have decided not to go.
3. The sound of the trumpets is disturbing me.
The sound of the trumpets are disturbing me.
4. The village folk needs more attention.
The village folk need more attention.
5. Alms was given to the poor.
Alms were given to the poor.
6. My problem, which is minor in comparison with others, exists because I did not take the medicine on time.
My problem, which is minor in comparison with others, exist because I did not take the medicine on time.

