

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT GRAMMAR RULES

1 If the subject is singular , the verb must be singular.If the subject is plural , the verb must be plural.

The boy **is** playing. / The boys **are** playing.

2 If two or more singular subjects are connected with "and" , the verb must be plural.

The dog and the cat **are** having lunch.

3 If two or more singular subjects are connected with "or" or "nor" , the verb must be singular.

Mollie or Linda **is** organising the music.

4 If the subjects include both singular and plural nouns connected with "or" or "nor" , the verb must agree with the subject that is closer to it.

The Johnsons or Sue **is** coming for dinner.
Sue or Johnsons **are** coming for dinner.

5 The verb must agree with the subject , not with the phrase between the subject and the verb.

One of the students **is** missing.
The students who read that story **are** few.
The president,as well as members of parliament **is** ready for the elections.
The man in brown shoes **is** running.

6 After the words "anybody,anyone, everybody,everyone,somebody,someone,nobody,no one,each,each one,either,neither" , you must use a singular verb.

Everyone **is** coming to the birthday party.
Somebody **is** knocking the front door.

7 Some words end with "s" ,but they are actually singular,so you must use a singular verb after them. (mathematics,measles, news,phonetics)

The news **is** bad for all the family members.
Phonetics **is** the study of sounds.

8 The word "money" is always singular and must be followed by a singular verb.When you use currencies " dollars,pounds,euros etc." , you may use a singular or plural noun depending on the meaning.If you are talking about the amount of money , you must use a singular verb.But if you are referring to the currency itself , you must use a plural verb.

A lot of money **is** needed for our school.
Ten pounds **is** good for a weekly pocket money.

9 After the nouns like "trousers,pants, glasses,tweezers,shears,scissors,sunglasses , you must use a plural verb.

His glasses **are** cool , aren't they?
Sally's trousers **are** made in Turkey.
Your sunglasses really **look** perfect on you.

10 If the subject is a collective noun , you can use both a singular or a plural verb depending on the meaning.If you are referring a collective nouns as a unit ,then use a singular verb.If you are referring the members instead , use a plural verbs.

The flock **is** migrating to the south.
The orchestra **plays** only on special days.
The orchestra **are** leaving the party.

11 If the subject is singular and followed by some expressions like "with,including, accompanied by,in addition to,as well as" , we use a singular verbs.If the subject is plural , we use a plural verb.

The teacher,as well as his students, **is** going to visit the museum.
The major,accompanied by his children, **is** doing some shopping.
Those toys,including the red car, **are** old.