

VERB

(RULES OF SUBJECT AND VERB AGREEMENT)

Rule-1 When two subjects are joined by 'AND' the verb is plural

Ex.-Ram and his father are in Delhi.

Rule-2 When two singular nouns joined by AND refer to the same person or thing and Article 'THE' is used only once when the two nouns refer to the same person or thing. the verb is singular.

Ex.-The principle and teacher has gone.(right)
The principle and teacher hav gone.(wrong)

Rule-3 If the two nouns refer to different persons or things, article 'THE' is used before each noun. In such cases, the verb will be in the plural form.

Ex.-The secretary and the president have launched a new project. (right)

Ex.-The secretary and the president has launched a new project. (wrong)

Rule-4 If two different singular nouns express one idea, the verb should be in the singular form.

Ex.-Bread and milk is good for Breakfast.(right)
Bread and milk are good for Breakfast.(wrong)
-Rice and curry is my favorite dish.(right)
Rice and curry are my favorite dish.(wrong)

Rule-5 When two singular subjects are practically synonymous the verb should be in the singular form.

Ex.-The law and order situation in the state is under control (right)
His power and influence is on the decline. (right)
Power and position have no charm for my friend. (wrong) (use 'has' in place of 'have')
Peace and Prosperity are the need to the day. (wrong) (use 'is' in place of 'are')

Rule-6 If two singular subjects joined by AND are preceded by each or every, the verb should be in the singular.

Ex.-Every boy and girl were absent in the class Yesterday.(wrong) (use 'was' in place of 'were')
Every man and every woman has the right to express his or her view.

Rule-7 When the subjects joined by (Either-or), (Neither-nor), (Not only-but also) are of different persons, the verb will agree in person and number with the noun nearest to it. (Also, the plural subject must be placed nearest to the verb.)

Ex.-Either the CM or the Cabinet Ministers is responsible for this problem. (wrong)
-Either the CM or the Cabinet Ministers are responsible for this problem. (right)
-Neither you nor he has gone to America. (right)
-Either you or I are responsible for this mistake. (wrong)
-Either you or I am responsible for this mistake. (right)

Rule-8 If connectives like with, together with, 'as well as', along with, besides, like, unlike, accompanied by etc. are used to combine two subjects the verb agrees with the subject mentioned first.

Ex.-The president of India together with his personal secretaries is coming in this function. (right)
-The actress, along with her manager and some friends, are attending the function. (wrong)
-The actress, along with her manager and some friends, is attending the function. (right)

Rule-9. Use of None/No.

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

[Structure [None + of the + (uncountable noun) + singular verb]

Ex.-None of the counterfeit money has been spent
Structure [None + of the + (plural count. noun) + plural verb]

Ex.-None of the boys have finished his work yet.
No can take either a singular or plural verb depending on the noun which follows it.

Structure : [No + Singular Noun + Singular Verb]
ex- No employee has received the salary.

Structure : [No + plural Noun + plural Verb]

Ex.- No examples are relevant to this case.

Rule-10. Many words indicating a number of people or animals are singular.

The following nouns are usually singular.

(If the individual members are acting separately, they are plural and take plural verb.)

[Congress, Family, Group, Committee, Class, Organisation, Team, Army, Club, Crowd, Government, Jury, Minority, Public]

Ex.-Team is strong. (right)

-My family lives in different cities in India. (wrong)

-My family live in different cities in India. (right)

The crowd were wild with excitement. (wrong)

The crowd was wild with excitement. (right)

Rule-11. Majority can be singular or plural. If it is alone it is usually singular, if it is followed by a plural noun, it is usually plural.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Majority by itself is singular but when majority refers to a set of people it is plural.

e.g. A majority is always right.

e.g. A majority of girls are right.

Rule-12. The number/A number

The number is singular:

(The number of + plural countable noun + singular helping verb)

Ex.The number of girls has gone to school. (right)

A number is plural:

(A number of + plural countable noun + plural helping verb)

Ex.A number of students are standing outside the office.

Rule-13. Collective nouns indicating time, money and measurements used as a whole are Singular and take a singular verb.

Ex-Twenty five rupees are not such a big amount for him . (wrong)

-Twenty five rupees is not such a big amount for him . (right)

Two miles is not a long distance. (right)

Rule-14. when a lot of, a great deal of, plenty of, most of and some of refer to number, a plural verb is used.

Ex.-A lot of people walk in this park daily. (right)

-A lot of people walks in this park daily. (wrong)

-Some of the students were solving maths. (right)

But, if these expressions refers to an amount, the verb is in the singular number.

Ex.- A great deal of work has been finished . (right)

Rule-15. When the percentage or a part of something is mentioned with plural meaning the plural verb is used.

Ex.-30 % of Indian women are literate.

Three-quarters of the water has been taken.

Rule-16. In sports, while referring to the players, the name of the country is followed by plural verb.

Ex.-India have won the World Cup.

Rule-17. When the word ENEMY is used in the sense ‘Armed forces’ of a nation with which one’s country is at war, we have to use the plural verb.

Ex-The enemy were forced to Retreat.

Rule-18. Use of Lay and Lie

The verb Lay is transitive and is always followed by an object

The verb Lie is intransitive and cannot have an object.

(Lay – Laid – Laid)

Ex.-Lay this old man on the bed.

I laid the pens on the table.

(Lie – Lay – Lain)

Ex-Let me lie here.

He lay under that tree.

Rule 19. When sentences start with “there” or “here,” the subject will always be placed after the verb, so care needs to be taken to identify it correctly.

Examples:

There are four children in the forest.(right)

There is a high hurdle to jump.

Here is the flowers. (wrong) **(use ‘are’ in place of ‘is’)**

There is a problem with the balance sheet. (right)

Rule 20: Don’t get confused by the words that come between the subject and verb; they do not affect agreement.

Ex- The dog, who is chewing on my jeans, is usually very good.

Rule 21- When 'WHAT' starts a noun clause that is the subject of sentence, we use singular verb...

Ex.- What I want is better tools.

-What we need most is this book.

- What she wants to buy is a new car.

(When 'WHAT' = 'that which', It is singular and takes a singular verb. When 'WHAT' = 'those which', It is plural and takes a plural verb.)

Ex. We shall not need any more bread, What we have is quite sufficient.

Ex-You need not get any more stamps, what we have are quite sufficient.

Rule 22- 'A VARIETY OF'

[Noun 'VARIETY', when preceded by the article 'A' is treated as plural and when preceded by the article 'THE' it is treated as singular.]

Ex. A variety of expensive goods are sold here.

- The variety of products is small.

Rule 23- 'PAINS/ MEANS'-

[PAINS and MEANS take either the singular or the plural verb according to the usage.

Ex. (a) Great pains have been taken in this case.

(Here the word 'GREAT' is telling the number or quantity, hence plural verb is used.)

Ex.(b) Much pain has been taken.

[Here the word MUCH is showing an amount.

Even if PAINS is much or less, amount is always single,hence singular verb]

Ex. (c) This means of travelling is not safe these days.
('This' is singular)

Ex.(d) Several means of travelling are available here.

['Several' is plural]

NOTE- 'MEANS' in the sense of income/ monetary resources always takes a plural verb.

Ex. (a) My means are meager. I can not afford this luxury.

(b) His means are insufficient to keep him.

Rule 24- If the same noun repeat after SINGULAR NOUN + PREPOSITION, we use singular verb.

Ex. (a) Day after day has passed.

(b) Ship after ship is sailing.

Rule 25- (a)'MORE THAN ONE' if followed by a singular noun takes singular verb-

Ex. More than one person is going.

(b) But 'MORE THAN ONE' is followed by 'OF' and a plural noun, it takes a plural verb.

Ex- More than one of people are going.

(c) MORE + PLURAL NOUN + THAN ONE takes a plural verb.

Ex. More proposals than one have been accepted.

- More cameras than one are new.

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Rule 26- 'THERE/IT'

(A) THERE is introductory subject takes singular verb if it is following a singular or uncountable noun, takes plural verb if that noun is plural.

Ex. There is a book on the table.

-There are two books on the table.

-There is a lot of milk in the jar.

(b) If the subject 'THERE' will be singular if it is following a plural noun/ pronoun referring to a fix amount or unit;

Ex. There is five rupees to pay.

-There is only another twenty kilometers to go.

(c) IT is introductory subject always takes singular verb;

Ex. It is I who helpd you.

- It is we who are working for Hari.

(d)If the subject THERE follows combination of two or more nouns giving one single idea/ thought it takes singular verb;

Ex. There is much coming and going.

- There is bread and butter for breakfast.

Rule 27- SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT WITH CLAUSES.

(A) A clause if is the subject takes singular verb;

Ex. That he is a liar is well known.

-What they say is true.

(B) But when two clauses if joined by 'and' take plural verb.

Ex.What he says and what he does are not in agreement

- Why he weeps and why he laughs are clear to me.

Rule 27- When a verb is there after AS,SO, NEITHER,NOR the verb is according to the subject that appears after these verbs.

Ex. He was an honest man, as was his father.

-She is a dancer, as are her sisters.

- Mohan wants to help you,so do I.

-You do not like her, neither do I.

-I do not help them, nor does my wife.