



Subject/Verb Agreement

Grammar Revision Guide
and Quick Quiz



Subject/Verb Agreement: The Rules

Singular

The subject and the verb of a sentence must always agree for the sentence to be grammatically correct.

What do you notice about the subject and verb in these sentences?

Thomas likes milk.

A hen lays eggs.

In these examples, with a **singular subject**, the **verb ends with an 's'**.
A **singular (one) subject** is always followed by the singular form of the **verb**.

Subject/Verb Agreement: The Rules

Plural

What do you notice about the subject and verb in these sentences?

The cats chase the mice.

The children follow the Pied Piper.

In these examples, with a **plural subject**, the **verb does not end with an 's'**.
A **plural** (more than one) **subject** is always followed by the plural form of the **verb**.

Subject/Verb Agreement: Exceptions to the Rules

If the subject of the sentence is 'I' or 'you' then the rules are different.

Although the pronouns 'I' and 'you' can both refer to a **singular subject**, when used in a Subject/Verb agreement the **verb should not have an 's' on the end**, as it usually would when paired with a singular subject.

For example,

I walk the dog.

You walk the dog.

versus

Susan walks the dog.

Subject/Verb Agreement: The Rules

To help with correct verb agreement, the basic rule is:

- If the subject is singular (one) the verb must be singular.
- If the subject is plural (more than one) the verb must be plural.
- If the subject is 'I' or 'you' the verb used must be plural (without 's' on the end).

To form the plural of a verb in the present tense, you should remove the s (or sometimes 'es' or 'ies') from the singular form.

Here are some examples of verbs in their present tense singular and plural form...

Singular	Plural
becomes	become
catches	catch
drinks	drink
flies	fly
forgives	forgive
goes	go
hides	hide
leads	lead
rides	ride
seeks	seek
springs	spring
tears	tear
writes	write

Subject/Verb Agreement: The Tricky Bits

The verb 'to be' follows a different rule when it comes to subject/verb agreement.
The irregular verb forms of 'to be' are very commonly misused.

Where there is one subject (singular), the correct use of 'to be' is either is, am or was...

I am/was

He is/was

She is/was

It is/was

I am/I was feeling excited.

He is/He was very gentle.

She is/She was playing tennis.

It is/It was a bright summer's day.

Subject/Verb Agreement: The Tricky Bits

In the plural form, the correct use of 'to be' is either are or were...

We are/were We are/We were excited.

You are/were You are/You were all in deep trouble.

They are/were They are/They were playing all day.

Now you have revised subject/verb agreement,
could you answer some quick questions on the topic?

Quiz! Part 1

Which pair of verbs correctly complete the sentences below?

1. Mum and Carol _____ certain that they had heard the air-raid siren.
2. Carol _____ feeling very frightened.

is / was

were / was

was / are

Correct!

Well Done!



Next Question

Incorrect

Try Again



Go Back

Quiz! Part 2

Choose one verb in each pair to complete the sentences using Standard English.

is / are

We _____ going on holiday to Surfers Paradise.

is / am

I _____ packing my swimmers and towel in my suitcase.

Next Question

Quiz! Part 3

Complete each sentence by adding the correct subjects to these sentences:

dog

I

Marcie

Sid and Violet

Sid and Violet play board games together.

I love pancakes.

The dog chews a bone.

Marcie writes a letter.

**Are you feeling confident with
subject/verb agreement?**

