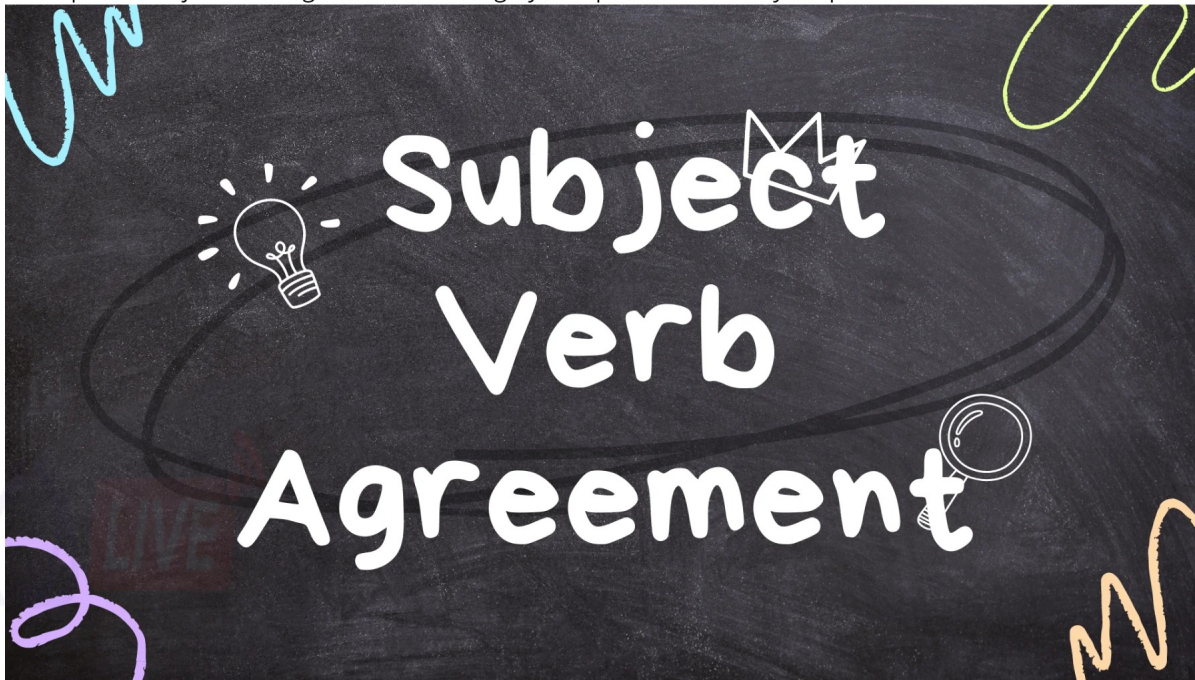


## Subject Verb Agreement - Definition, Types, Functions and Rules with Examples

Welcome to our blog on Subject Verb Agreement, an essential topic in English Grammar that plays a crucial role in all competitive exams. Approximately 3 - 4 questions certainly appear based on this topic, in the exam, making it imperative for you to grasp the concepts of Subject Verb Agreement thoroughly and practice a variety of questions.



[Source: KD Live]

In this blog, we will comprehensively cover all the theoretical concepts and rules of this topic. Additionally, we have included many examples for you to deeply understand each concept and rule. So, let's dive into the world of Subject Verb Agreement and boost your exam preparation.

The basic idea behind this topic is pretty simple, as the name clearly suggests: Verbs need to agree with their subjects in number (singular or plural) and in person (first, second, or third). In order to check agreement, you simply need to find the verb and ask who or what is doing the action of that verb.

Let us learn the basic rules of Subject Verb Agreement: (In the following examples, the agreeing subject is in bold and the verb is in italics.)

### Rule 1 of Subject Verb Agreement

Subjects and verbs must agree in number. This is the cornerstone rule that forms the background of the concept.

- The **dog** *growls* when he is angry.



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- The **dogs** growl when they are angry

### Rule 2 of Subject Verb Agreement

Subordinate clauses that come between the subject and verb don't affect their Subject Verb Agreement.

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

### Rule 3 of Subject Verb Agreement

Prepositional phrases between the subject and verb usually do not affect Subject Verb Agreement.

- The **colors** of the rainbow are beautiful.

### Rule 4 of Subject Verb Agreement

When sentences start with "there" or "here," the subject will always be placed after the verb. Some care needs to be taken to identify each part correctly.

- There is a **problem** with the balance sheet.
- Here are the **papers** you requested.

### Rule 5 of Subject Verb Agreement

Subjects don't always come before verbs in questions. Make sure you accurately identify the subject before deciding on the proper verb form to use.

- Where are the **pieces** of this puzzle?

### Rule 6 of Subject Verb Agreement

If two subjects are joined by "and," they typically require a plural verb form.

- The **cow** and the **pig** are jumping over the moon.

### Rule 7 of Subject Verb Agreement

The verb is singular if the two subjects separated by "and" refer to the same person or thing as a whole.





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- **Red beans and rice** is my mom's favorite dish.

### Rule 8 of Subject Verb Agreement

If one of the words "each," "every," or "no" comes before the subject, the verb is singular.

- No **smoking** or **drinking** is allowed.
- Every **man** and **woman** is required to check in.

### Rule 9 of Subject Verb Agreement

If the subjects are both singular and are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," or "not only/but also," the verb is singular.

- Either **Jessica** or **Christian** is to blame for the accident.

### Rule 10 of Subject Verb Agreement

The only time the object of the preposition decides plural or singular verb forms is when noun and pronoun subjects like "some," "half," "none," "more," or "all" are followed by a prepositional phrase. Then the object of the preposition determines the form of the verb.

- All of the **chicken** is gone.
- All of the **chickens** are gone.

### Rule 11 of Subject Verb Agreement

The singular verb form is usually reserved for units of measurement or time.

- Four **quarts of oil** was required to get the car running.

### Rule 12 of Subject Verb Agreement

If the subjects are both plural and are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," or "not only/ but also," the verb is plural.

- Not only **dogs** but also **cats** are available at the animal shelter.



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### Rule 13 of Subject Verb Agreement

If one subject is singular and the other is plural, and the words are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," or "not only/but also," use the verb form of the subject that is nearest the verb.

- Either the **bears** or the **lion** has escaped from the zoo.
- Neither the **lion** nor the **bears** have escaped from the zoo.

### Rule 14 of Subject Verb Agreement

Indefinite pronouns typically take singular verbs (with some exceptions).

- **Everybody** wants to be loved.

### Rule 15 of Subject Verb Agreement

The exceptions to the above rule include the pronouns "few," "many," "several," "both," "all," and "some." These always take the plural form.

- **Few** were left alive after the flood.

### Rule 16 of Subject Verb Agreement

If two infinitives are separated by "and," they take the plural form of the verb.

- **To walk** and **to chew** gum require great skill.

### Rule 17 of Subject Verb Agreement

When gerunds are used as the subject of a sentence, they take the singular form of the verb. However, when they are linked by "and," they take the plural form.

- **Standing** in the water was a bad idea.
- **Swimming** in the ocean and **playing** drums are my hobbies.

### Rule 18 of Subject Verb Agreement



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A collective noun, such as "team" or "staff," can be either singular or plural depending upon the rest of the sentence. Typically, they take the singular form, as the collective noun is treated as a cohesive single unit.

- The **herd** is stampeding.

### Rule 19 of Subject Verb Agreement

Titles of books, movies, novels, and other similar works are treated as singular and take a singular verb.

- **The Burbs** is a movie starring Tom Hanks.

### Rule 20 of Subject Verb Agreement

Final rule: Remember, only the subject affects the verb! Nothing else matters.

- **Jacob**, who owns sixteen houses, is on his way to becoming a billionaire.

### Exceptions to the Rules of Subject Verb Agreement

Let's review some of the most notable exceptions of Subject Verb Agreement:

- "Anyone", "everyone", "someone", "no one", and "nobody" always require singular verbs.
- "Neither" and "either" require singular verbs even though they seem to be referring to two separate things.
- When a sentence compounds a positive and a negative subject and only one is plural, the verb should agree with the positive subject.
- Words that indicate portions of a whole, such as "per cent", "fraction", "some", "none", and "remainder" require a singular verb only if the object of the preposition is singular.
- "Who", "that", and "which" can be singular or plural, according to the noun directly in front of them.
- The phrase introduced by "as well as" or "along with" modifies the earlier word, but doesn't compound the subjects.
- Modifiers between the subject and verb do not affect whether the verb is singular or plural.
- Just because a word ends in -s doesn't automatically make it plural.

This article has provided you with valuable insights into the world of Subject Verb Agreement. We sincerely hope that you have found this blog useful and that it has contributed to enhancing your understanding of this crucial topic. As you continue to gear up for your upcoming exam, we encourage you to share your thoughts, or any doubts you may have in the comments section below.



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