

LESSON: SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Part A: Rules and Examples

Rule 1 – Singular subjects take singular verbs

Example: The dog runs fast.

Rule 2 – Plural subjects take plural verbs

Example: The dogs run fast.

Rule 3 – When two subjects are joined by “and”, use a plural verb

Example: My friend and I are going to the park.

Rule 4 – When two subjects are joined by “or” or “nor”, the verb agrees with the subject closest to it

Example:

- a. Either the teacher or the students are present.
- b. Either the students or the teacher is present.

Rule 5 – Indefinite pronouns (each, everyone, someone, anybody, etc.) are singular

Example: Everyone is happy.

Rule 6 – Some words look plural but are singular (news, mathematics, physics, etc.)

Example: Mathematics is my favourite subject.

Rule 7 – Collective nouns (team, family, group) are usually singular when acting as a unit

Example: The team is winning.

Rule 8 – With “there is/there are”, the verb agrees with the real subject

- Example:
- a. There is a book on the table.
 - b. There are books on the table.

Rule 9 – Titles of books, movies, and organizations are singular

Example: “The Chronicles of Narnia” is a great series.

Rule 10 – Fractions and amounts depend on the noun

Examples:

- a. Two-thirds of the cake is gone.
- b. Two-thirds of the people are happy.

Part B: Practice Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. She ____ (go/goes) to school every day.
2. My friends and I ____ (play/plays) football on Sundays.
3. Either the teacher or the students ____ (was/were) responsible.
4. Everyone ____ (enjoy/enjoys) the party.
5. The news ____ (is/are) surprising.
6. The team ____ (has/have) won the match.
7. There ____ (is/are) many reasons to be happy.
8. Two-thirds of the water ____ (is/are) clean.

B. Correct the mistakes in the sentences below:

1. My brother go to the gym every morning.
2. The dogs barks loudly at night.
3. Neither the teacher nor the students is absent.
4. Ten rupees are not enough to buy this.