

Grade 6 - English

Grammar

Subject - Verb agreement

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English

Subject-Verb Agreement (SVA)

Subject and verb agreement refers to how the words in your sentence match. **REMEMBER: your subject and verb must agree in number.** Singular subjects take singular verbs; plural subjects take plural verbs.



RULES FOR

SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT

1. A verb agrees with its subject in number.

Examples:

- Rene* and *Morgan* **are** friends.
- The *children* **wake** up early every morning.

2. A compound subject that refers to one person or thing should take a singular verb.

Examples:

- The *secretary* and *treasurer* **is** Miss Irene Gonzalez.
- The *chairman* of the board and *president* **is** Mrs. Prado.
- Bow* and *arrow* **is** his only weapon.

3. Compound subjects combined by **or**, **either...or**, **neither ... nor**, should take verbs that agree in the number with the subject nearer the verb.

Examples:

- Either** the *men* **or** *David* **is** to lead.
- Neither** *Jocelyn* **nor** the *girls* **are** to look down.

The subject and verb in a sentence should match with each other in number. A singular subject will have a singular verb, and a plural subject will have a plural verb.

Examples: Kevin **walks** to school. Kevin and Tom **walk** to school.

Compound subjects can be used as singular or plural, but remember different rules apply for different compound subjects.

Examples: Ava and Ana **are** going abroad.
Ava or Ana **is** going abroad.

Collective nouns can be followed by singular or plural verbs, but conditions apply.

Examples: The army **protects** the nation.
The couple **are** moving to a new house.

Indefinite pronouns like everyone, each, someone and no one are always singular.

Example: Everyone in the class **is** a champion.

Indefinite pronouns like both, many, few, and several are always plural.

Example: Both **are** in love with music.

Indefinite pronouns like all, most and some can be both singular or plural, depending on their usage.

Examples: Most of the exam **was** easy. (talking about one exam)
Most of the exams **were** easy. (talking about all exams)

Examples

He talks to the girl.

singular singular

We talk to the girl.

plural plural

I talk to the girl.

singular plural

John, **you talk** to the girl.

singular plural

Examples

Single helping verb:

The **girl has talked** to me.

singular singular
no "s" "s"

The **girls have talked** to me.

plural plural
"s" no "s"

First helping verb in pair of helping verbs:

The **girl has been talking** to me.

singular singular
no "s" "s"

The **girls have been talking** to me.

plural plural
"s" no "s"

Thank you..!