



# **SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY**

**Coimbatore-35**  
**An Autonomous Institution**

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Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai



## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**19ENB101- COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH**  
**I YEAR / I SEMESTER**

**UNIT 1: FUNCTIONAL GRAMMAR**

**TOPIC : SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT**



Look at the below pictures carefully and come up with your observations



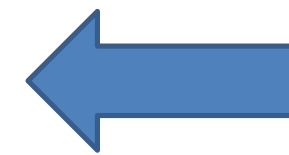


Plural subjects take plural verbs



subject      verb  
Two dogs are  
sitting on the grass.

Singular subjects must have singular verbs.





❖ When two subjects are joined by 'and', the verb is plural.

**Example:**

Ram and Priya are jumping over the moon.



❖ When two singular nouns joined by 'and' refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.

**Example:**

The bread and butter is my favourite food.





❖ If a sentence begins with **HERE or THERE**, the verb agrees with the subject which follows it.

## Examples

Here comes<sup>(verb)</sup> the lion<sup>(singular subject)</sup>.

There is a pond <sup>(singular subject)</sup> near the house.

There are some candies <sup>(Plural subject)</sup> on the table.





❖ If two subjects, one single and one plural, are connected by EITHER/OR or NEITHER/NOR, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.

### Example

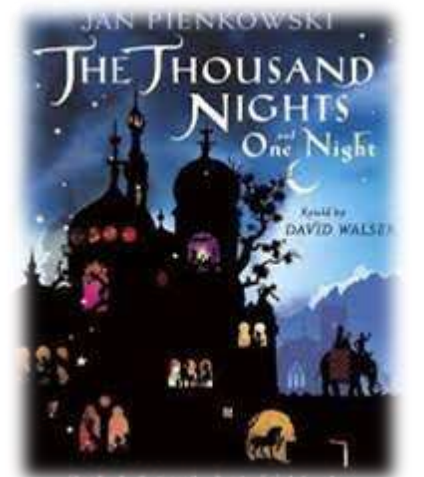
Neither the players nor the coach is joining.



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

### Example

The Thousand and One Nights is a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales





❖ A singular subject followed by intervening words or phrases such as WITH, AS WELL AS, IN ADDITION TO, ACCOMPANIED BY, TOGETHER WITH and NO LESS THAN, takes a singular verb.

### Example

My teacher and friend is here.



❖ Indefinite pronouns (everyone, each one, someone, somebody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody etc.) are always singular.

### Examples

Everyone is playing happily.





The following words are always plural: PANTS, TROUSERS, PLIERS, SCISSORS, SHEARS, TONGS. However, if the word PAIR is used, the verb is singular.

## Examples

The pair of scissors was placed on the table.



The pants are torn into two.





## ASSESSMENT



### **CORRECT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES USING SUBJECT -VERB AGREEMENT**

1. Iron as well as gold are found in India.
2. Bread and butter are wholesome food.
3. Not one of you have done their work properly.
4. Each of the boys were rewarded.
5. No news are good.
6. Physics are my favourite subject.
7. The rich help the poor.





Certain nouns, though plural in form, are singular in meaning and therefore take singular verbs.

## Examples

The latest news is alarming to the public.



Mathematics is my favorite subject



The indefinite pronouns SEVERAL, FEW, BOTH, MANY , OTHERS are always plural.

**Example**

Some of the ice cream is left.



If *the + an adjective* appears as the subject of a sentence, it will be plural.

**Example**



The industrious are always not successful.



**Collective nouns** are usually regarded as singular subjects.

**Example**

A flock of sheep always moves together



The crowd enjoys the excitement in the game.



# ASSESSMENT



If a *gerund* or an *infinitive* comes as a subject, the verb will always be singular.

## Example:

Swimming is a good exercise.



Walking is a good habit.



## ASSESSMENT



### CHOOSE THE CORRECT FORM OF THE VERB THAT AGREES WITH THE SUBJECT

1. Annie and her brothers **(is, are)** at school.
2. Either my mother or my father **(is, are)** coming to the meeting.
3. The dog or the cats **(is, are)** outside.
4. Either my shoes or your coat **(is, are)** always on the floor.
5. George and Tamara **(doesn't, don't)** want to see that movie.
6. Benito **(doesn't, don't)** know the answer.
7. One of my sisters **(is, are)** going on a trip to France.
8. The man with all the birds **(live, lives)** on my street.
9. The movie, including all the previews, **(take, takes)** about two hours to watch.
10. The players, as well as the captain, **(want, wants)** to win

Let's DO this!

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## REFERENCES

<https://www.learngrammar.net/english-grammar/subject-verb-agreement-rules-examples>

<https://www.englishpractice.com/quiz/verbs-exercise-iii/>

