

CONCORD (SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT)

A verb must agree with its subject in number or person, such agreement is called concord.

- **Basic Rule.** A singular subject (she, Bill, car) takes a singular verb (is, goes, shines), whereas a plural subject takes a plural verb. ...
 - **Subjects and verbs must agree in number. This is the cornerstone rule that forms the background of the concept. In these examples the verb is in italics**
The dog *growls* when he is angry. The dogs *growl* when they are angry.
 - **Don't get confused by the words that come between the subject and verb; they do not affect agreement.**
The dog, who is chewing on my jeans, *is* usually very good.
 - **Prepositional phrases between the subject and verb usually do not affect agreement.**
The colors of the rainbow *are* beautiful.
 - **When sentences start with "there" or "here," the subject will always be placed after the verb, so care needs to be taken to identify it correctly**
There *is* a problem with the balance sheet. Here *are* the papers you requested.
 - **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?
 - **If two subjects are joined by "and," they typically require a plural verb form.**
The cow and the pig *are* jumping over the moon
 - **The verb is singular if the two subjects separated by "and" refer to the same person or thing**
Red beans and rice *is* my mom's favorite dish.
 - **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
 - **The singular verb form is usually used for units of measurement or time**
Four quarts of oil *was* required to get the car running
 - **If the subjects are both plural and are connected by the words "or," "nor," "neither/nor," "either/or," and "not only/but also" the verb is plural.**
Dogs and cats *are* both available at the pound.
 - **Indefinite pronouns typically take singular verbs.**
Everybody *wants* to be loved.
 - **Except for the pronouns "few," "many," "several," "both," "all," and "some" that always take the plural form.**
Few *were* left alive after the flood
 - **If two infinitives are separated by "and" they take the plural form of the verb.**
To walk and to chew gum *require* great skill
 - **Collective nouns like "herd," "senate," "class," and "crowd," usually take a singular verb form.**
The herd *is* stampeding.
 - **Titles of books, movies, novels, etc. are treated as singular and take a singular**
The Burbs *is* a movie starring Tom Hanks.

Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of verb. Choose the answers from the options given in the brackets.

1. One of my friends **has** gone to France. (has / have)
 2. Each of the boys **was** given a present. (was / were)
 3. Neither of the contestants **was** able to win a decisive victory. (was / were)
 4. Oil and water **do** not mix. (do / does)
 5. He and I **were** at Oxford together. (was / were)
 6. Slow and steady **wins** the race. (win / wins)
 7. Neither Peter nor James **has** any right to the property. (has / have)
 8. No prize or medal **was** given to the boy, though he stood first in the examination. (was were)
 9. Either Mary or Alice **is** responsible for this. (is / are)
 10. Neither the Minister nor his colleagues **have** given any explanation for this. (have / has)
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1. Either the physicians in this hospital or the chief administrator **is** going to have to make a decision.
 2. **Is** my boss or my sisters in the union going to win this grievance?
 3. Some of the votes **seem** to have been miscounted.
 4. The tornadoes that tear through this county every spring **are** more than just a nuisance.
 5. Everyone selected to serve on this jury **has** to be willing to give up a lot of time.
 6. Kara Wolters, together with her teammates, **presents** a formidable opponent on the basketball court.
 7. He seems to forget that there **are** things to be done before he can graduate.
 8. There **have** to be some people left in that town after yesterday's flood.
 9. Some of the grain **appears** to be contaminated.
 10. Three-quarters of the students **are** against the tuition hike.
 11. Three-quarters of the student body **is** against the tuition hike.
 12. A high percentage of the population **is** voting for the new school.
 13. A high percentage of the people **were** voting for the new school.
 14. There **is** time to watch the movie
 15. Emily and Greg **come** to my house every Friday for lunch.