



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

Coimbatore-35



CONCORD AGREEMENT (SUBJECT & VERB AGREEMENT)

Subject & Verb agreement means, Subject and Verb must agree in numbers. This means both needs to be singular or plural. There are certain rules to be followed, they are:

	SINGULAR	PLURAL
1st Person	I walk	We walk
2nd Person	You walk	You walk
3rd Person	He/She/It walks	They walk

Singular verbs : Am, is ,was, has.

In singular main verb add 's' – eats, drinks, dances, goes

Plural verbs : Are, were, have.

In Plural main verb don't add 's' – eat, drink, dance, go

RULE 1:

- If the **Subject** is **Singular** then the **verb** also should be **singular**.

Eg: I **play** football

He **plays** football

- If the **subject** is **plural** then the **verb** also should be **plural**.

Eg: They **play** football

RULE 2:

The state of the subject will not change due to words/phrase in between them. Here state means mentioning the subject as singular or plural.

Eg: **One** of the bottles **is** full.

[The subject is **one** (**singular**) so the verb should be **is** (**singular**)]

These clothes **are** too small for me.

[The subject is **these** (**plural**) so the verb should be **are** (**plural**)]

RULE 3:

All **singular** subject use '**has**', All **plural** subject use '**have**'

SINGULAR (Has)	PLURAL (Have)
He	I
She	You
It	We
Noun (Person)	They

Eg: **She has** a new model laptop

It has been raining outside

Zara has a car

Eg: **I have** a younger brother

Do **you have** a pen?

They have taken the wrong decision

RULE 4:

If more than one number is joined by '**or**' its considered as **singular** subject

Eg: Apple **or** Orange juice **is** fine

Your Mom **or** Dad **has** to come to the meeting

RULE 5:

Sentences with pronouns such as **anybody, somebody, nobody, everybody, anyone, someone, no one, everyone, nothing** are considered as **Singular**

Eg: Somebody **has** stolen my pen

Nothing **is** more important than your studies

Is there anybody here?

RULE 6:

When a sentence begins with 'each' or 'every' use **singular** verb

Eg: Each student **has** been asked to write a letter

Every listener **is** a good speaker

RULE 7:

If a sentence contains 'The number of' use **singular** verb

Eg: The number of road accidents **is** increasing

RULE 8:

Nouns such as **mathematics, civics, physics, politics, news, gymnastics, etc...** appear to be plural but are **singular** in subject.

Eg: Physics is taught by Prof. John

Gymnastics is my favorite sport

RULE 9:

When the subject refers to **time, distance, money, weight, measurement**, use singular verb.

Eg: 10 **kilometers is** too far to walk

62 **years is** the minimum age of retirement

200 **dollars is** a high price for this item

RULE 10:

Uncountable nouns like beauty, bravery, darkness, advice, honesty, water, milk, smoke, weather, flour, coffee/tea, air, drinks, news, information, furniture etc... are **singular** in subject

Eg: Honesty **is** the best policy

The milkshake **is** so cool

This information **is** useful

The furniture **is** neat and clean

RULE 11:

Nouns that are joined by the word '**and**' are considered as **plural** in subject and use plural verb.

Eg: Tom and John **are** coming home tonight

Water and sugar **are** needed for this recipe

The teacher and the students **are** invited for this function

RULE 12:

Words like '**either/or**', '**neither/nor**', agrees with the noun/pronoun near to it.

Eg: Either the **teacher** or the **students** **have** to attend the meeting

Neither Tom nor **John** **is** coming home tonight

RULE 13:

Collective nouns have either **singular** or **plural verb**.

Eg: **My family** **is** settled in India

All group of **participants** **have** arrived

RULE 14:

Words such as **all**, **a lot of**, **some** uses singular or plural verb according to its subject.

Eg: A lot of **food** **is** left over

A lot of **cakes** **are** gone

Some of the **Book is** damaged

Some of the **books are** damaged

All of the **cake is** finished

All of the **cakes are** finished

RULE 15:

When words like **many** and **more than one** is used in a sentence, use **Plural** verb

Eg: Many **students were** present at the function

More **volunteers are** needed

Exercise 1:

Choose the correct subject verb combinations in the sentences below.

- a. The lady in the car _____ (look/looks) like your mother.
- b. Most of the milk _____ (is/are) gone.
- c. One of the flowers _____ (has/have) wilted.
- d. Either Ram or Shyam _____ (is/are) coming today.
- e. The books _____ (is/are) interesting.
- f. The teachers _____ (has/have) arrived.
- g. Nobody _____ (has/have) seen the missing boat.
- h. A flock of sheep _____ (are/is) in the garden.
- i. Here _____ (is/are) the newspaper.
- j. Civics _____ (is/are) my favourite subject.

Solution:

- a. The lady in the car **looks** like your mother.
- b. Most of the milk **is** gone.
- c. One of the flowers **has** wilted.
- d. Either Ram or Shyam **is** coming today.

- e. The books **are** interesting.
- f. The teachers **have** arrived
- g. Nobody **has** seen the missing boat.
- h. A flock of sheep **is** in the garden.
- i. Here **is** the newspaper.
- j. Civics **is** my favourite subject

Exercise 2:

1. My dog _____ a lot. (bark)
2. You _____ beautiful in that dress. (look)
3. She _____ French fluently. (speak)
4. It _____ nice to _____ you again. (was, see)
5. The mechanic _____ the issue and _____ a solution. (identify, provide)
6. The news about the storm _____ quite shocking. (was, is)
7. James _____ to work every day. (drive, drives)
8. Lisa _____ the piano very well. (play, plays)

Solution :

1. My dog barks a lot.
2. You look beautiful in that dress.
3. She speaks French fluently.
4. It is nice to see you again.
5. The mechanic identifies the issue and provides a solution.
6. The news about the storm is quite shocking.
7. James drives to work every day.
8. Lisa plays the piano very well.

Exercise 3:

1. She sing beautifully at the choir.
2. John and Mary goes to the same university.
3. There is five apples on the table.
4. The teacher and the student has a meeting.
5. My shoes and my bag matches perfectly.
6. The team of scientists have made a breakthrough.
7. The company and its subsidiaries is growing rapidly.
8. The pack of wolves hunts at night.
9. The fleet of ships are sailing towards the horizon.
10. The jury have reached a decision.

Solution

1. She *sings* beautifully at the choir.
2. John and Mary *go* to the same university.
3. There *are* five apples on the table.
4. The teacher and the student *have* a meeting.
5. My shoes and my bag *match* perfectly.
6. The team of scientists *has* made a breakthrough.
7. The company and its subsidiaries *are* growing rapidly.
8. The pack of wolves *hunt* at night.
9. The fleet of ships *is* sailing towards the horizon.
10. The jury *has* reached a decision.