



INDIAN SCHOOL NIZWA

CLASS: VIII – ENGLISH WORKSHEET-1

Subject–Verb Agreement Rules

Key: subject = **yellow, bold**; verb = green, underline

Subjects and verbs must agree in number. In addition to the explanations on this page, also see the post on [Subject–Verb Agreement](#).

1. If the subject is singular, the verb must be singular too.

Example: **She** writes every day.

Exception: When using the singular "they," use plural verb forms.

Example: The participant expressed satisfaction with their job. **They** are currently in a managerial role at the organization.

2. If the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural.

Example: **They** write every day.

Sometimes, however, it seems a bit more complicated than this.

3. When the subject of the sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb.

Example: **The doctoral student and the committee members** write every day.

Example: **The percentage of employees who called in sick and the number of employees who left their jobs within 2 years** are reflective of the level of job satisfaction.

4. When there is one subject and more than one verb, the verbs throughout the sentence must agree with the subject.

Example: **Interviews** are one way to collect data and allow researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of participants.

Example: **An assumption** is something that is generally accepted as true and is an important consideration when conducting a doctoral study.

5. When a phrase comes between the subject and the verb, remember that the verb still agrees with the subject, not the noun or pronoun in the phrase following the subject of the sentence.

Example: **The student**, as well as the committee members, is excited.

Example: **The student** with all the master's degrees is very motivated.

Example: **Strategies** that the teacher uses to encourage classroom participation include using small groups and clarifying expectations.

Example: **The focus** of the interviews was nine purposively selected participants.

6. When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by "or" or "nor," use a singular verb.

Example: The chairperson or the CEO approves the proposal before proceeding.

7. When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by "or" or "nor," the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is closest to the verb. This is also called the rule of proximity.

Example: The student or the committee members write every day.

Example: The committee members or the student writes every day.

8. The words and phrases "each," "each one," "either," "neither," "everyone," "everybody," "anyone," "anybody," "nobody," "somebody," "someone," and "no one" are singular and require a singular verb.

Example: Each of the participants was willing to be recorded.

Example: Neither alternative hypothesis was accepted.

Example: I will offer a \$5 gift card to everybody who participates in the study.

Example: No one was available to meet with me at the preferred times.

9. Noncount nouns take a singular verb.

Example: Education is the key to success.

Example: Diabetes affects many people around the world.

Example: The information obtained from the business owners was relevant to include in the study.

Example: The research I found on the topic was limited.

10. Some countable nouns in English such as *earnings*, *goods*, *odds*, *surroundings*, *proceeds*, *contents*, and *valuables* only have a plural form and take a plural verb.

Example: The earnings for this quarter exceed expectations.

Example: The proceeds from the sale go to support the homeless population in the city.

Example: Locally produced goods have the advantage of shorter supply chains.

11. In sentences beginning with "there is" or "there are," the subject follows the verb. Since "there" is not the subject, the verb agrees with what follows the verb.

Example: There is little administrative support.

Example: There are many factors affecting teacher retention.

12. Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but are considered singular and take a singular verb. Some examples are "group," "team," "committee," "family," and "class."

Example: **The group** **meets** every week.

Example: **The committee** **agrees** on the quality of the writing.

However, the plural verb is used if the focus is on the individuals in the group. This is much less common.

Example: **The committee** **participate** in various volunteer activities in their private lives.

WORK SHEET-1

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.
11. Either answer (is, are) acceptable.
12. Every one of those books (is, are) fiction.
13. Nobody (know, knows) the trouble I've seen.
14. (Is, Are) the news on at five or six?
15. Mathematics (is, are) John's favorite subject, while Civics (is, are) Andrea's favorite subject.
16. Eight dollars (is, are) the price of a movie these days.
17. (Is, Are) the tweezers in this drawer?
18. Your pants (is, are) at the cleaner's.
19. There (was, were) fifteen candies in that bag. Now there (is, are) only one left!
20. The committee (debates, debate) these questions carefully.
21. The committee members (leads, lead) very different lives in private.
22. The Prime Minister, together with his wife, (greet, greets) the press cordially.
23. All of the CDs, even the scratched one, (is, are) in this case.

Answers:

1. Annie and her brothers **are** at school.
2. Either my mother or my father **is** coming to the meeting.
3. The dog or the cats **are** outside.
4. Either my shoes or your coat **is** always on the floor.
5. George and Tamara **don't** want to see that movie.
6. Benito **doesn't** know the answer.
7. One of my sisters **is** going on a trip to France.
8. The man with all the birds **lives** on my street.
9. The movie, including all the previews, **takes** about two hours to watch.
10. The players, as well as the captain, **want** to win.
11. Either answer **is** acceptable.
12. Every one of those books **is** fiction.
13. Nobody **knows** the trouble I've seen.
14. **Is** the news on at five or six?
15. Mathematics **is** John's favorite subject, while Civics **is** Andrea's favorite subject.
16. Eight dollars **is** the price of a movie these days.
17. **Are** the tweezers in this drawer?
18. Your pants **are** at the cleaner's.
19. There **were** fifteen candies in that bag. Now there **is** only one left!
20. The committee **debates** these questions carefully.
21. The committee members **lead** very different lives in private.
22. The Prime Minister, together with his wife, **greet**s the press cordially.
23. All of the CDs, even the scratched one, **are** in this case.