



Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement refers to representing the singularity/plurality of a subject and a verb in like terms. The subject and verb must agree in number even when other words come between them.

Subject	Verb	Example
Singular	Singular	<i>The boy enjoys sports.</i>
Plural	Plural	<i>Students study a lot.</i>
Singular + and + singular = Plural	Plural	<i>My sister and brother play sports.</i>
Compound with a singular meaning	Singular	<i>Macaroni and cheese is my favorite dish.</i>
Nouns joined by either...or/ neither...nor	Agrees with subject nearest to the verb	<i>Neither the students nor the professor understands the guest speaker.</i> Or <i>Neither the professor nor the students understand the guest speaker.</i>
Collective nouns that act as a singular whole	Singular	<i>The class listens carefully.</i>
Singular indefinite pronoun (Ex: one, everyone, each, anyone, nobody...)	Singular	<i>Everyone has gone home. Each student needs his or her own textbook.</i>
Plural forms with singular meanings	Singular	<i>Mathematics is a difficult subject.</i>
Indicates amounts	Singular or plural, depending on the sentence	<i>None of the <u>pollution</u> is near my house. None of the <u>rivers in Texas</u> are polluted.</i> [When the object of the preposition is singular, the verb is singular; when the object is plural, the verb is plural.]
Relative pronoun	Singular or plural, depending on the noun it represents	<i>The student who studies makes good grades.</i> <i>Students who study make good grades.</i>
Compound subject with "every" or "each"	Singular	<i>Every student in the class speaks. Each student wishes he were last.</i>