

3.10 SUBJECT VERB (SV) AGREEMENT

(CONCORD)

Subject-verb agreement refers to the rule that the verb in a sentence must agree with its subject in terms of number (singular or plural).

Why It's Important

- Ensures clarity and correctness in communication.
- Makes sentences grammatically sound.

Basic Rules of Subject-Verb Agreement

Singular subject + Singular verb

Example: *She runs every day.*

Plural subject + Plural verb

Example: *They run every day.*

Inverted sentences (questions): The verb agrees with the subject, not the auxiliary verb.

Example: *Do you play?* (Not "Do you plays?")

SPECIAL CASES IN SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

Compound Subjects

When two subjects are connected by "and", use a plural verb.

Example: *Tom and Jerry run.*

Exception: If the compound subject refers to one thing or person, use a singular verb.

Example: *Mac and Cheese is my favorite meal.*

Subjects Joined by "Or" or "Nor"

Use the verb that agrees with the subject closer to the verb.

Example: *Neither the teacher nor the students are ready.*

Example: *Neither the students nor the teacher is ready.*

Collective Nouns

If the collective noun refers to a group acting together, use a singular verb.

Example: *The team is winning.*

If the collective noun refers to individuals acting separately, use a plural verb.

Example: *The team are arguing among themselves.*

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT WITH INDEFINITE PRONOUNS

Some indefinite pronouns are singular, and others are plural.

Singular: *everyone, someone, anyone, nobody, anything, each*

Plural: *both, few, many, several*

Example: *Everyone is ready.*

Example: *Many are going to the concert.*

UNCOUNTABLE NOUNS

Uncountable nouns are always considered singular.

Example: *The information is correct.*

Example: *Water is essential for life.*

"Each" and "Every"

Both are singular and take singular verbs.

Example: *Each student is responsible for their own*

project.

Example: *Every teacher has a different style.*

Subject-Verb Agreement with "None"

"None" can be singular or plural depending on the context.

Singular: When referring to a singular noun or idea.

Example: *None of the information is correct.*

Plural: When referring to plural nouns.

Example: *None of the students are absent.*

Agreement in Complex Sentences

In sentences with more than one subject, ensure the subject closest to the verb determines the verb form.

Example: *Neither the teacher nor the students are ready.*

Example: *Neither the students nor the teacher is ready.*

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

Incorrect Agreement:

The team are winning (incorrect) → *The team is winning* (correct).

She have a book (incorrect) → *She has a book* (correct).

Overuse of Plural Forms:

The teacher and the student is ready (incorrect) → *The teacher and the student are ready* (correct).

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Exercise 1: Choose the correct verb form:

The dog _____ (bark/barks) loudly every night.

Exercise 2: Choose the correct sentence:

Neither the teacher nor the students _____ (is/are) in the classroom.

Exercise 3: Fill in the blanks:

The boys _____ (is/are) playing soccer.