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RULES



RULE #2

The **predicate** agrees with the **subject** regardless of **words, phrases, and clauses** that come between them.

- The coach, as well as his athletes, is jubilant.
- The father, together with his sons, works hard.

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

refers to the relationship between the subject and the verb of a sentence.

Subjects and **verbs** must always agree.



RULE #3

Collective noun names a group of persons and things. If the *idea expressed* by a collective noun is that of *a single group of individuals*, the verb should be **singular**. If the *idea expressed* by a collective noun is that of *a number of individuals or to the individual members of a group*, the verb should be **plural**.

RULE #3

- The team practices basketball every day.
- The team practice different games for the regional meet.

RULE #1

The **subject** agrees with the **predicate** in person and in number. The verb ends in S if the subject is in the third person, singular, present tense.

Singular

Plural

The boy plays well.

The boys play well.

Rina is confident.

Rina and I are confident.

Rule #4 - Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement

An **antecedent** is a *word or group of words* to which *a pronoun refers* or that *a pronoun replaces*. All pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, gender, and person.

A **pronoun** must agree with its antecedent in **number** (singular or plural) and **gender** (masculine, feminine, common or neuter)

RULE #4

A pronoun must agree in person with its antecedent.

- I hike on trails that amaze **me** with their beauty.
- **Susy** and **James** are going to Australia where **they** can see live kangaroos.
- When **you** travel, **you** can learn a lot.

RULE #4

- **Jelly** did not go home because **her** things were stolen.
- The **priest** left **his** bags on the table.
- The **horseshoe crab**, despite **its** name, is not a true crab.

RULE #4

In general, use a singular personal pronoun when the antecedent is a singular indefinite pronoun, and use a plural personal pronoun when the antecedent is a plural indefinite noun.

RULE #4

- **Oysters** are becoming endangered because of oil spills near **their** grounds.
- **Authors** must capture **their** readers' interest.

RULE #4

- **Each** of the **boys** buys **his** own uniform.
- **One** of the **women** has **her** own diving equipment.
- **Many** of the **students** bring **their** lunch to school.

RULE #5

Indefinite pronouns *each, either, one, other, another, anybody, anyone, anything, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, somebody, someone*, take **singular** verbs.

RULE #5

- Someone **is** looking for you.
- Everything **is** going to be all right.
- Someone **has** left the group chat without asking permission.

RULE #6

Indefinite pronouns *both, few, many, several* take **plural** verbs.

- Many **are** called, but few **are** chosen.
- Both **are** in excellent condition.
- Only few **are** cleaning the room.

RULE #7

Indefinite pronouns *all, any, most, some, none, such* may be **singular or plural**. Use a singular verb if the indefinite pronoun refers to a singular noun; use a plural verb if the indefinite pronoun refers to a plural noun.

RULE #7

- None of the chairs **are** counted and fixed.
- All of the program **was** televised.

RULE #8

All takes a **plural** verb when it refers to *concrete nouns*; **all** takes a **singular** verb when it refers to *abstract nouns*.

- All of the rooms **were** repainted.
- All hope **was** gone.

RULE #9

Compound subjects joined by “*and*” require **plural** verbs.

- December *and* January are cold months.
- Phil *and* Nina go home together.

RULE #11

b) **Plural subjects** joined by *or/nor* take **plural** verbs.

- Boys *or* girls are expected to participate in the play.
- Neither the children *nor* the adults feel comfortable.

RULE #10

In a sentence with **compound subjects** connected by the conjunction “*not only...but also*”, the **verb agrees with the part nearer it**.

- *Not only* the students *but also* the teacher is told to go.
- *Not only* the driver *but also* the passengers are at fault in the altercation.

RULE #11

c) In **compound subjects** with **one singular** and **one plural** joined by *or/nor* the verb agrees with the **part nearer it**.

- Either the brass jars *or* the tray is hers.
- The tray *nor* the jars were not stolen.

RULE #11

a) **Singular subjects** joined by *or/nor* take **singular** verbs.

- Thunder *or* lightning gives a warning of a coming storm.
- Neither Gene *nor* Mila loves swimming.

RULE #12

In a **compound subject**, *one negative, one positive*, the predicate agrees with the **positive member**.

- You, not I, are to blame.
- I, not you, am to blame.

RULE #13

Two nouns generally *thought of together* take a **singular** verb.

• Bread and butter **is** good for breakfast.

• Cookies and cream **is** my favorite.

RULE #14

Two nouns referring to *the same person* take a **singular** verb.

• May's classmate and cousin **is** here.

• My teacher's lawyer and husband **leaves** early.

• My old friend and neighbor, Kiko **pretends** to be happy.

RULE #15

Sums of money and **units of measurement** take **singular** verbs.

• Five hundred pesos **is** my share.

• Ten years **is** such a long, long time.

• Five kilos **is** equivalent to eleven pounds.

RULE #16

Fractions take **singular** verbs. But if an *of-phrase* follows the fraction, the number of the verb depends on whether the noun in the of-phrase is **singular** or **plural**.

• Three-fourths **is** a fraction of one.

• One-half **is** all I need.

RULE #16

Fractions take **singular** verbs. But if an *of-phrase* follows the fraction, the number of the verb depends on whether the noun in the of-phrase is **singular** or **plural**.

• Three-fourths of the apple **was** enough.

• Three-fourths of the mangoes **are** rotten.

RULE #17

When the **subject** and the **predicate** nominative are *different in number*, the **verb** agrees with the **subject**.

• My favorite dessert **is** fresh peaches.

• Fresh peaches **are** my favorite dessert.

RULE #18

“A number” takes a plural verb.

“The number” takes a singular verb.

- A number of students are late.
- The number of participants increases by the day.

RULE #19

“There is” is followed by a singular noun.

“There are” is followed by a plural noun.

- There is a loud noise from the room.
- There are insects in my drawer

RULE #20

The relative pronoun **WHO** which refers to a singular antecedent takes a singular verb; if it refers to a plural antecedent, it takes a plural verb.

- The man who is here is a doctor.
- The men who are here are doctors.

RULE #21

Adjectives used as subjects take plural verbs.

- The hardworking are rewarded.
- The young are restless.

RULE #22

Titles, names of organizations, and names of countries take singular verbs.

- The First Men in the Moon is a famous novel.
- The Society of Children's Book Writers is in California.
- The Bahamas remains a beautiful place.

RULE #23

Use a singular verb after HERE or THERE when the subject noun or pronoun of the sentence is singular.
Use the plural verb when the subject noun or pronoun is plural.

RULE #23

- Here is a class list.
- Here are the class lists.
- There goes Jona now.
- There you go.

RULE #24

When “*many a*”, “*each*” or “*every*” is found before a **compound subject**, use a **singular verb**.

- *Many a* writer, painter, and musician knows disappointment.
- *Every* man and woman is required to come early.
- *Each* boy and girl was allowed to come in.

Rule #25

Confusing Subjects or
Hard-to-Find Subjects:

A subject that comes after its verb must still agree with it in number. If a subject comes after its verb, the sentence is said to be inverted. Many inverted sentences begin with a prepositional phrase. Do NOT mistake the object of the preposition for the subject of the sentence.

Remember that the subject of an inverted sentence always follows the verb. Check the agreement of the subject and verb by mentally putting the sentence in the usual subject-verb order.

Under the hen's wings was a tiny chick.
(*A tiny chick was under the hen's wing.*)

Which magazines does he buy?
(*He does buy which magazines.*)

There are no more days in this year.
(*No more days are in this year.*)

RULE #26

Nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning agree with **singular verbs**. Some of these nouns name branches of knowledge: *acoustics*, *aesthetics*, *civics*, *economics*, *gymnastics*, *mathematics*, *physics*, *politics*, and *social studies*. Others are singular in meaning because, like collective nouns, they name single units: *macaroni* (one dish consisting of many pieces of pasta); *measles*, *mumps* and *ricketts* (one disease).

RULE #26

- Mathematics **is** my most difficult subject.
- Measles **threatens** unborn babies.
- Gymnastics **has** always been our favorite sports in the Olympic games.

RULE #26

Some of these words are especially tricky. When **ethics** and **politics** name *characteristics or qualities* rather than branches of knowledge, their meanings are **plural**. Words like *eyeglasses*, *pliers*, *scissors*, and *trousers* generally take **plural** verbs although they name single items.

RULE #26

- Nina's ethics **are** adjusted to fit any occasion.
- Jack's politics **were** not our concern.
- The scissors **are** in the sewing box.

RULE #27

"None" may be **singular** or **plural**, but the plural is the more common construction.

- None **has** complained so far. (*no one*)
- None **were** late today. (*not any of them*)

RULE #27

"None" may be **singular** or **plural**, but the plural is the more common construction.

- None of their publications **have** a wide circulation. (*not any*)
- Of all the requests, none **is** to be granted. (*no one*)

RULE #28

The **relative clause** following "*one of*" usually takes a **singular** verb.

- One of the barangay officials **was** charged with graft.
- One of my friends **plays** the flute.
- One of the students brought to the Infirmary **is** Roy.