

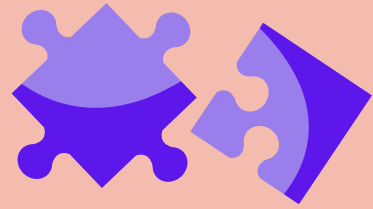
SUBJECT / VERB AGREEMENT

Subject: the noun completing or experiencing the action
Verb: the action being performed or experienced by the subject

Nouns connected by "and"

*She and her friends **are** in the same class*

A subject composed of two or more nouns connected by "and" requires a plural verb. "And" indicates there is more than one subject completing or experiencing the action, joining them as one



Nouns connected by "or"

*The pencil or the marker **is** in his backpack*



A subject composed of two or more singular nouns connected by "or" requires a singular verb. "Or" indicates there is only one noun involved in the action even though the subject contains two.

Compound subjects joined by "or"

*The student or her group members **turn** in projects*
*Her group members or the student **turns** in projects*

A compound subject joined by "or" requires the verb to agree with the closest neighboring subject.



A simple way to identify which verb form to use is to read the sentence starting from the closest subject after "or." The example sentences would then read:

*Her group members **turn** in projects.*
*The student **turns** in projects.*

Phrases between the S/V

*The student, in addition to his classmates, **is** nervous about the exam.*

A phrase composed of additional pronouns or nouns in between the subject and verb does not interfere with the subject/verb agreement.

The verb should always agree with the subject even if more nouns are present. "is" agrees with "the student" even though "his classmates" is plural within the phrase between the subject and verb.



Collective nouns

The class is performing well this semester

Collective nouns require a singular verb; although collective nouns imply multiple people are involved in the action, they are considered to be one singular unit.



Nouns that are pairs

The scissors are on the front desk

Nouns like scissors, pants, and shears are considered pairs and need a plural verb to agree with them.

Nouns to consider

Anyone
Everyone
No one
Someone
Everybody
Anybody
Nobody
Somebody
Each
Each one
Either
Neither



Singular verb!

Examples:

is
has
writes
runs
reads
says

(typically, verbs that end in "s")

Subjects following the verb and sentences beginning with "there"

The subject follows the verb in sentences that begin with phrases like "there are" and "there is."

There are many assignments

There is a speech

"There" is not a subject; therefore, the verb agrees with the noun that comes after it whether it be plural or singular.