**[Subject-Verb Agreement](http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/sentences/Subject-Verb-Agreement.html)**

It simply means that the subject and the verb must agree in number. This means both need to be singular or both need to be plural.

## **Subject/Verb Agreement Examples:**

Here are some examples of subject verb agreement (the subject is bolded, and the verb is underlined):

* My **dog** always growls at the postal carrier.
* **Basketballs** roll across the floor.
* **I** don’t understand the assignment.
* These**clothes**are too small for me.
* **Peter** doesn’t like vegetables.

**Compound Subjects:**

Compound subjects (two subjects in the same sentence) usually take a plural verb, unless the two subjects refer to the same thing or person. Here are some examples of subject verb agreement with compound subjects:

* **Sugar and flour** are needed for the recipe.
* **Neither my dad nor my brothers** know how to ski.
* **Pepperoni and cheese** are great on a pizza.
* **The creator and producer**is arriving soon. (both refer to the same person)

When using “or” or “nor” in a compound subject containing a singular and plural subject, the verb agrees with the closest subject. Examples of compound subjects using or, neither-nor, or either-or include:

* **My mom or dad**is coming to the play. (singular)
* Neither **gray nor white**is my favorite color. (singular)
* Either **Grandpa or my sisters** are going to the park. (closest subject is plural)
* Either **my sisters or Grandpa**is going to the park. (closest subject is singular)
* Neither **she nor I**am going to college. (closest subject is singular)

### Singular Indefinite Pronouns:

Here are some examples of subject verb agreement with singular indefinite pronouns:

* **Each** gets a trophy for playing.
* **Anybody**is more fun than you.
* **Something**is very wrong here.
* **Everybody**enjoys a good book.
* **Nothing** has been determined yet.

**Plural Indefinite Pronouns:**

Here are some examples of subject verb agreement with plural indefinite pronouns:

* **Both** are qualified for the job.
* **Many** go to the beach to get a tan.
* **Few** know what it really takes to get ahead.
* **Several** are already on location.
* **Some** sugar is required for taste. (sugar is uncountable so singular verb used)
* **Most** of the cookies were eaten. (cookies are countable so plural verb used)

### Inverted Subjects:

Here are some examples of subject verb agreement with inverted subjects where the subject follows the verb:

* There are seven clean **plates** in the dining room.
* There is a **hair** in my lasagna.
* Over the rainbow flies a **bird**.
* How are the **employees** enjoying the new building?
* A good gift is a **gift card**.

**Exercises on subject-verb agreement:**

* **Choose the correct answer in each sentence.**

1. Both of my pencils \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ an eraser. (has / have)
2. Someone at the stables \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the horses every morning. (grooms / groom)
3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he have the directions? (don’t / doesn’t)
4. Few of the apartments \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ever vacant at this time of year. (is / are)
5. Most of the newspaper \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wet. (is / are)
6. Your hands and feet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nearly half the bones in your body. (contain / contains)
7. My mother and my sister\_\_\_ watch TV except for the evening news. (don’t / doesn’t)
8. Everybody at the fourth of July parade \_\_\_\_\_ carrying an American flag. (was /were)
9. Every one of those books \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ fiction. (is / are)
10. All of the CDs, even the scratched one, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in this case. (is / are)
11. George and Mary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ want to see that movie. (doesn’t / don’t)
12. The movie, including all the previews, \_\_\_\_\_ about two hours to watch. (take / takes)
13. The dog or the cats \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ outside. (is / are)
14. Either Mary or Alice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ responsible for this. (is / are)
15. Each of the boys \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ given a present. (was / were)