



UNIT 1

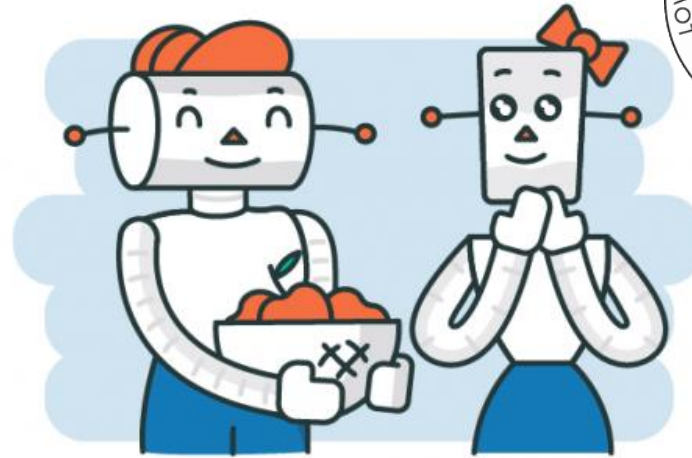
LECTURE 1

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

Subjects must agree with the verb in number and tense.



One robot loves apples.



Two robots love apples.

Subject-Verb Agreement



subject verb

Two dogs **are**
sitting on the grass.



subject verb

One dog **is**
sitting on the grass.





INTRO..

- In the case of the topic called Subject Verb Agreement, it refers to the verb agreeing with the subject in number and form of the subject. **Subjects must agree with verbs.** Singular subjects need singular verbs; plural subjects need plural verbs.
- *Subject-Verb Agreement means that subjects and verbs must always agree in number.*

What is a subject?

- The subject is the part of a sentence or clause that commonly indicates (a) what it is about, or (b) who or what performs the action (that is, the agent). E.g. The **baby** cries when he is hungry





What is a Verb?

- A verb can show action -- either mental or physical action.
 - It can also show state of being.
 - In grammar, number refers to the two forms of a word: singular (one) or plural (more than one).
 - *A verb agrees with its subject in number.*
e.g. The baby **cries** when he is hungry

 - **Basic Rule:** A singular subject (she, Bill, car) takes a singular verb (is, goes, shines), whereas a plural subject takes a plural verb.
- Example: The list of items is/are on the desk.
- If you know that *list* is the *subject*, then you will choose *is* for the verb.



1. SUBJECTS AND VERBS MUST AGREE IN NUMBER.



- Singular subject = singular verb
- Plural subject = plural verb
- Cow= singular, eats= singular
- Dogs= plural, bark= plural
- *Hint*= SVS- singular verbs have an S
- Singular yes?- the verb has an “S”!
- Singular no? otherwise no “S”





2. PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES BETWEEN THE SUBJECT AND VERB USUALLY DO NOT AFFECT THE AGREEMENT.



The biker *in this race* is very competitive.

The bikers *in this race* are very competitive.

A bouquet *of yellow roses* lends . . . (*bouquet lends, not roses lend*)





POLL QUESTION

The colors of the rainbow ____ beautiful

- A. Is
- B. are





3. DON'T GET CONFUSED BY THE WORDS THAT COME BETWEEN THE SUBJECT AND VERB.

- The detective *who was called to the case* is usually very good.
- The women *with all the answers* sit.
- The politician, *along with the newsmen*, is expected shortly.



Parentheses are not part of the subject.

Example: *Joe* (and his trustworthy dog) is always welcome.





POLL QUESTION

Excitement, as well as nervousness, ___the cause of her shaking.

- A. is
- B. was





POLL QUESTION

The women with all the answers ____

- A. sit
- B. sits



4. IF A SENTENCE STARTS WITH “THERE” OR “HERE”, THE SUBJECT WILL ALWAYS BE PLACED AFTER THE VERB.



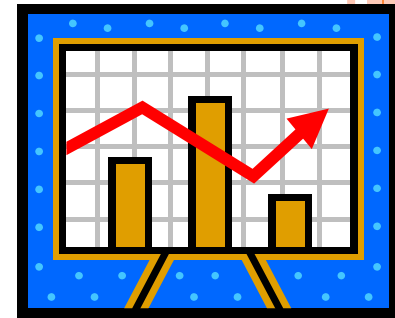
There is a ***meeting*** today.

Here are the ***results*** from this past month.

NOTE:

Take care never to use *there's/there is* with a plural subject.

Incorrect : There is many cars in the parking area.



5. SUBJECTS CAN COME AFTER THE VERB IN QUESTIONS.

- Does Betty always play with dolls?



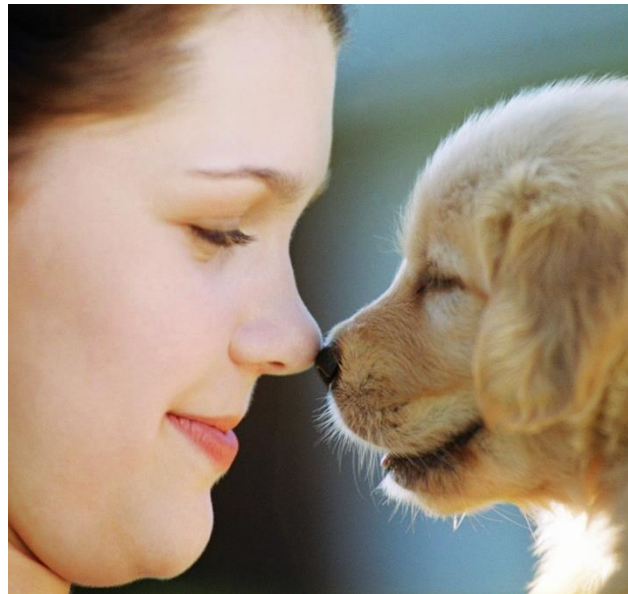
- How are the Bosco sticks today?



6. IF TWO SUBJECTS ARE JOINED BY “AND”, THEY TYPICALLY REQUIRE A PLURAL VERB.



- The puppy and the lady are friends.





POLL QUESTION

A car and a bike __ my means of transportation.

- A. Is
- B. Are



7. IF TWO SUBJECTS ARE SEPARATED BY “AND” REFER TO THE SAME THING, THE VERB IS SINGULAR.



- Spaghetti and meatballs is my favorite pasta dish.





POLL QUESTION

The bed and breakfast ____ charming.

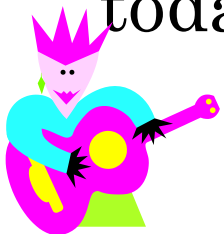
- A. *Was*
- B. *Were*





8. IF BOTH SUBJECTS ARE SINGULAR AND CONNECTED BY *OR*, *NOR*, *NEITHER/NOR*, *EITHER/OR* AND *NOT ONLY/BUT ALSO*, THE VERB IS SINGULAR.

- Sally **or** John has stolen the scarecrow.
- **Not only** the guitar player **but also** the drummer was soaked with sweat.
- My aunt **or** my uncle is arriving by train today.





POLL QUESTIONS

Q1. Neither Juan nor Carmen ___ available.

- A. Is
- B. are

Q2. Either Kiana or Casey ___ helping today with stage decorations.

- A. Is
- B. are





9. IF BOTH SUBJECTS ARE PLURAL AND CONNECTED BY THE WORDS *OR*, *NOR*, *NEITHER/NOR*, *EITHER/OR*, AND *NOT ONLY/BUT ALSO*, THE VERB IS PLURAL.

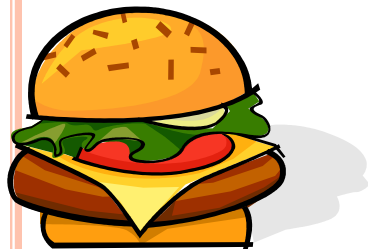
- Cookies or brownies **are** nice treats for your teacher.





10. IF ONE SUBJECT IS SINGULAR AND ONE PLURAL AND ARE CONNECTED BY THE WORDS *OR, NOR, NEITHER/NOR, EITHER/OR, AND NOT ONLY/BUT ALSO*, USE THE SUBJECT THAT IS NEAREST THE VERB.

- *Neither the serving bowl nor the plates go on that shelf.*
- *Neither the plates nor the serving bowl goes on that shelf.*





11. NONE, THOUGH PROPERLY SINGULAR, COMMONLY TAKES A PLURAL VERB.

Example: None of the boys are studying in the class.





POLL QUESTION

- Either my sisters or my mom __sent me a present.
- A. has
- B. Have



12. UNITS OF MEASUREMENT USUALLY USE A SINGULAR VERB.



- Six gallons of paint was used on the house.



- Five dollars is too much for a cup of coffee.





POLL QUESTION

- Ten dollars (i.e., dollar bills) ____ scattered on the floor.
- A. was
- B. were





Thank you for learning!

