

Class - VIIIpg-1Subject - English LanguageChapter - 5 Agreement of Subject and Verb

Good morning students

Today we will be learning about the topic 'Agreement of subject and verb' as a part of your English Language assignment which will be submitted to you on dated 11th July 2022. All the students are requested to open page number 38, L-5 of your English Language book titled Collins English Grammar and Composition. Students, keep your practice notebook ready as during this lesson you will be asked a few questions in order to check your understanding of the lesson.

Students in your previous chapter you have learnt about finite verbs.

A finite verb in a sentence must always agree with its subject in number and person. In a sentence when the subject is singular, the verb must be singular and when the subject is plural the verb must be plural, this is the main rule to make a correct sentence.

So, in a sentence the verb must be agree with the subject in number and person to be grammatically

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correct. This is known as the agreement of subject and verb. It is also known as the Subject-Verb Concord.

Examples

- He has bought a new car.
- All the brothers are excellent speaker.
- A child likes chocolate.
- I am happy.
- We are Indians.
- He is writing a story these days.

In these examples, it is quite easy to identify whether the subject is singular or plural but sometimes it is difficult to decide whether the subject is singular or plural. Apart from the main rule, there are a few more rules according to which subject and verbs agree. So we have to keep some rules in our mind to understand whether the verb in a sentence is singular or plural to make the sentence grammatically

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grammatically correct.

★ Rules of Subject - Verb Agreement

1. Two singular subjects joined with 'and' -
If the subject consist of two or more singular nouns or pronouns joined with 'and', it takes a plural verb.

• Example -

- Delhi and Mumbai are the most polluted cities of India.

- He and I were present in the meeting.

2. When two nouns are joined with 'and' but refer to the same person or thing or suggest one idea, they take a singular verb.

• Example -

- My philosopher and guide is dead.

- Rice and curry is my favourite meal.

3. With, As well as -

When the subject consists of two nouns or pronouns joined with 'with' or as well as, the verb agrees with the first of them.

• Examples

- The captain with all the players, is present in the ground.

- I as well as they, am tired of the work.

4. Each, either, neither, everyone, one of the take a singular verb.

Class - VIISubject - English LanguageChapter - 5 Agreement of Subject and Verb• Examples -

- Each of these sisters sings well.
- Either of the two candidates is perfect for the job.
- Neither of the two plans is suitable.
- Everyone knows the secret now.

5. When two subjects are connected with either... or, or neither... nor, the verb agrees with the latter subjects -

• Examples

- Either the manager or the employees are telling lie.
- Neither the moon nor the stars were shining.

6. When the subject is a unit of measurement or a mathematical equation, the verb used is singular. Examples -

- Seventy miles is a long distance to travel on foot.
- I don't need so much. Two kilograms is enough for me.

7. There are certain nouns which end in s and look plural, but they are singular in number. They take singular verbs.

• Examples -

- Mumps is a disease with painful swellings generally caught by children.
- Economics is my favourite subject.
- Gymnastics is an Olympic sport.

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- Students, now let us take a short break in order to check your understanding of the topic. You will be asked a few questions, after listening to the questions you may pause the audio for three minutes to write your answers.

Q1. Choose the correct verb to complete the given sentences.

1. All the members of the staff (was/were) happy about the decision.
2. A committee (has/have) been formed to elect the new president.
3. This pair of scissors (are/is) too old and blunt.
4. Three Men in a Boat (is/are) a humorous book by Jerome K. Jerome.
5. Most of the questions (was/were) discussed by the teacher in the class today.
6. The Internet and the mobile phone (are/is) good examples of how technology has become an important part of our life.

- Students break is over, now we will continue with the topic.

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8. When the subject is a collective noun, we use singular or plural verbs based on the meaning we want to convey.

- Examples

- The team plays well.

- The members of the jury are still divided on their opinion.

9. Often a proper noun looks plural in form, but it stands for one object and it takes a singular verb.

- Example

Atma Ram and Sons is a well-known publishing company.

10. Some nouns are always plural in form and therefore take plural verbs.

- Examples

- Your binoculars look very powerful.

- These scissors are not sharp enough to cut this wire.

11. Much and a little take a singular verb.

- Examples

- Much has already been said.

- Only a little of the work has been completed.

12. Many, a few, several, both take a plural verb.

- Examples

- Many of these students were absent yesterday.

- A few of these houses are still vacant.

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- Several of these shops are closed today.
- Both of the guests have arrived.

Alright students we have done with the topic Subject-Verb Agreement. Now you all are required to revise the content carefully and try to attempt exercises A-C given in your book as a part of your home assignment. Thank you.

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