

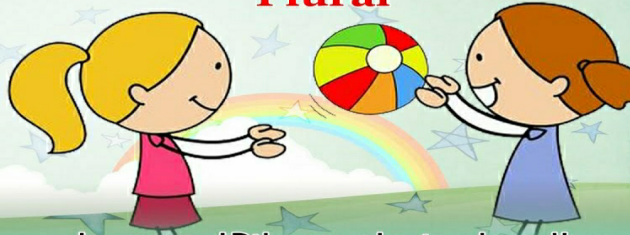
# Subject-Verb Agreement

**Singular**



A dog **is** a faithful animal.

**Plural**



Jenny and Rita **are** playing together.

## Subject-Verb Agreement

Collective nouns - *team, family, group, crew, gang, class, faculty*, and the like - take a singular **verb** if the noun is considered a unit, but they take a plural **verb** if the group is considered as a number of individuals.

- The **team** **is** playing well tonight.
- The **team** **are** getting dressed.

*[In this sentence, the individuals are acting not as a unit but separately.]*

*If you don't like the way the sentence sounds, rewrite it.*

- The **members** of the team **are** getting dressed.

# Subject-Verb Agreement

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Alternative subjects - that is, subjects joined by *or, nor, either/or, neither/nor, not only/but also* - should be handled in the following manner:

*If the subjects are both singular, the verb is singular.*

- **Tomas or Mary is** picking you up at the airport.

*If the subjects are plural, the verb is plural.*

- **Neither the students nor the teachers were** impressed by his comments.

*However, if one of the subjects is singular and the other subject is plural, the verb agrees with the nearer subject.*

- **Either her sons or their mother feeds** the dog each day.
- **Either their mother or her sons feed** the dog each day.

## Let's Practise

Correct the sentences using verbs to match with the subjects.

1. I ..... (is/were/am) from Odisha, but Paul and Sridhara ..... (am/are/is) from Karnataka.
2. Odisha and Karnataka ..... (are/were/am) two states in India.
3. Our summer holidays ..... (is/was/were) in July.
4. Sridhara ..... (was/were/is) in Karnataka last month.
5. He ..... (were/was/is) there for his aunt's wedding.
6. Karnataka ..... (are/am/is) a beautiful state. It ..... (have/has) beaches and mountains.
7. Paul and I ..... (am/are/were) in a hill station in Odisha then.
8. It ..... (is/was/were) wonderfully cool in the summer.
9. The hill station ..... (has/have) waterfalls and a nature reserve.
10. We ..... (are/am/was) back now. I ..... (is/am/are) a little tired.



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11. Paul asks, 'What time ..... (are/ am/is) it?'

12. I ..... (is/was/am) already asleep then.

## Let's Learn

### Verb + -s

Notice the addition of -s after verbs in some of the example sentences given below.

#### Examples:

He studies geography every day.

The boy plays.

The addition of -s after a verb occurs under two conditions.

**Condition 1:** when the subject is singular except "I" or "you" (he/she/animal/tree/friend/sky ...)

**Condition 2:** when the verb is in the present tense (eat/sleep/dance/read ...)

The table given here shows us when -s is added after a verb.

person	singular	plural	adding -s after the present tense of a verb
1st person	I	We	x (goes/eats/drinks)
2nd person	You	You	x (goes/eats/drinks)
3rd person	he/she/it/friend/cow/ plant/man/table		✓ (goes/eats/drinks/stand)
3rd person		They	x (goes/eats/drinks)

## Let's Practise

Use the verbs in agreement with their subjects.

1. Dogs ..... (bark/barks) when they  
..... (is/are) hungry.
2. But my dog ..... (bark/barks) at strangers.
3. Every evening, I ..... (take/takes)  
my dog for a walk.



4. We ..... (go/goes) to the park.
5. I ..... (play/plays) with my friends.
6. My dog ..... (play/plays) with the pets of my friend.
7. When the sky ..... (turn/turns) dark, we .....  
(walk/walks) back home.
8. Dad ..... (feed/feeds) our dog. At night it .....  
POCO (keep/keeps) a watch over our house.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Subject-Verb Agreement

The subject of a sentence must agree with the verb.

Notice the verbs in the two sentences below.

*Ben reads a book.*

*Ben and Sam read a book.*



In the first sentence, only one person is reading, so the present tense verb is "reads." The verb (reads) agrees with the subject (Ben).

In the second sentence, two people are reading, so the present tense verb is "read." The verb (read) agrees with the subject (Ben and Sam).

Read each sentence below. Choose the correct verb that agrees with the subject.

1. Billy \_\_\_\_\_ to buy a new skateboard. (want, wants)
2. Those two boys \_\_\_\_\_ to buy new skateboards. (want, wants)
3. Grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ a hamburger for dinner. (cook, cooks)
4. Grandma and Grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ dinner together. (cook, cooks)
5. The dogs \_\_\_\_\_ when the mail carrier comes. (growl, growls)
6. The brown dog \_\_\_\_\_ when someone comes in. (growl, growls)
7. All three computers \_\_\_\_\_ when you turn them on. (beep, beeps)
8. That computer \_\_\_\_\_ when you turn it on. (beep, beeps)
9. The basketball \_\_\_\_\_ across the court. (roll, rolls)
10. Three tennis balls \_\_\_\_\_ across the court. (roll, rolls)

## Let's Practise

Now complete the sentences by using verbs to match with their subjects.

1. My brother who travels to many places ..... coming home today. (is/are)
2. Horses with a long tail ..... my favourite. (is/are)
3. The cyclones that pass through our state ..... a lot of harm. (do/does)
4. Arun ..... going to the circus today. (is/are)

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5. Everyone from the village ..... an umbrella with them. (has/have)
6. I, with my friends, ..... at the cricket match. (was/were)

Thank  
You!

