

Lesson Name : 28

Lesson Title : Subject-Verb Agreement

Course Name : English 2 Part 3 [Honors]

Task Id : 57059452

Course Id : 15021



Essential Instruction

It is a good idea to use your digital notebook to keep notes about new grammar concepts that you may need to reference later.

When learning the rules of agreement in grammar, it is first important to understand number and its role in this concept.

**Number:** A word that refers to one person, place, thing, or idea is **singular** in number. A word that refers to more than one is **plural** in number.

Today, we will be focusing on **subject verb agreement**.

A verb should agree in number with its subject.

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.

Singular: He takes karate lessons.

Plural: They take karate lessons.

- The following indefinite pronouns are **singular**: anybody, anyone, anything, each, either, everybody, everyone, everything, neither, nobody, no one, nothing, one, somebody, someone, and something.
- The following indefinite pronouns are **plural**: both, few, many, and several.
- The indefinite pronouns all, any, more, most, none, and some may be singular or plural, depending on their meaning in the sentence.

**Examples:**

All of the students have completed the assignment.

All of the flour has been used.

- Subjects joined by **and** are usually plural.
- Singular subjects joined by **or** or **nor** take a singular verb. Plural subjects joined by **or** or **nor** take a plural verb.
- When a singular subject and a plural subject are joined by **or** or **nor**, the verb agrees with the subject closer to the verb.

**Examples:**

Neither the principal nor the students have doubts about the game.

Neither the students nor the principal has doubts about the game.

- A collective noun can be either singular or plural depending on its meaning in the sentence.

**Examples:**

The committee is meeting today.

The committees are voting today.

- An expression of an amount may be singular or plural depending on how it is used.

**Examples:**

Seven dollars were lying on the table.

Seven weeks is a long time to be away from home.

Now you try!

1. She (examine, examines) the test carefully.
2. Jewelers (place, places) a high value on diamonds.
3. The blades on a pair of ice skates (is, are) expensive to fix.
4. The best athletes in the world (compete, competes) at the Olympics.
5. Either rain showers or sleet (is, are) expected next week.

The [correct agreement](#) between the subjects and verbs will open in a new window.

**Effective Listening Skills**

Now we are going to focus on becoming effective listeners. In this listening activity, we will listen to part of a podcast biography. Remember, a biography tells the story of an actual person. It is not written by the subject; that would make it an autobiography. A biography can focus on a person's entire life or just a fraction of their life. To begin your journey to becoming an effective listener, make sure you follow the steps to active listening. Review the [steps for active listening](#), which will open in a new window.

Now that you are ready to be an effective listener, [listen to the podcast biography](#), which will open in a new window.



[Open Video in New Tab](#)

