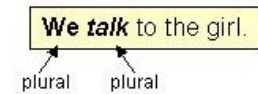


## Subject-Verb Agreement Review

**Rule One: A verb must agree with its subject in number.**

- Singular subject => singular verb
- Plural subject => plural verb

### Examples



**Rule Two: The subject never appears in a prepositional phrase.**

- **To find the subject, cross out the prepositional phrase.**
- *Reminder: a preposition are words such as: of, in, on, above, below, along, with, near, etc.*
  - A pair of kitchen scissors (is, **are**) in the second drawer. (pair = plural)
  - My sister, along with her friends, (**has**, have) invited me to the party. (sister = singular)

**Rule Three: A verb agrees with its subject even when the verb comes before the subject.**

- There (**is**, are) a spelling mistake in my homework. (a spelling mistake = singular)
- Where (is, **are**) the children's coats? (children's coats = plural)

**Rule Four: Subjects joined by and create a plural subject and generally take a plural verb.**

- A patchwork quilt and a sleeping bag (covers, **cover**) my bed in the winter.
- A crusty baking pan and a greasy plate (**sit**, sits) on the countertop.

**Rule Five: When subjects are joined by either...or, nor, neither or not only... but also, the verb agrees with the subject closer to the verb.**

- Either my dog or the squirrels (**eat**, eats) the breadcrusts I put out for my dog.
- Neither the squirrels nor my dog (eat, **eats**) the breadcrusts I put out for the birds.

**Rule Six: Words ending in -one, -body, -thing take singular verbs; also each, either, neither.**

- Each of the students (**is**, are) using Twitter in the classroom.
- Everyone (**loves**, love) Ms. Wolbers' class, because she is SO nice and NEVER tortures students with giant essay assignments.



**Rule Seven: Units of time, mass, money, length & distance take singular verbs.**

- Four hours (**is**, are) a short time to wait for concert tickets.
- Three centimetres (**seems**, seem) like a small amount, but my hair looks much shorter!

## Subject-Verb Agreement Review

Choose the correct verb that matches the subject for each sentence.  
State the rule that indicates the correct use of verb.

1. After the restaurant makeover was complete, ~~most of the original appliances~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (was, **were [plural]**) donated to charity.  
*Rule Two: disregard the prepositional phrase; Rule One: most indicates plural*
2. ~~Each of their children~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (**was [singular]**, were) given a name picked at random from the pages of a *Harry Potter* book.  
*Rule Two: disregard the prepositional phrase; Rule Six: each indicates singular*
3. ~~Many of the chapters in the business textbook~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (**include [plural]**, includes) useful websites in the margins.  
*Rule Two: disregard the prepositional phrases; Rule One: many indicates plural.*
4. Envelopes, file folders, **and** a recipe book \_\_\_\_\_ (is, **are [plural]**) jammed into Ian's kitchen drawers.  
*Rule Four: there are three items in the subject (envelopes, file folders, and a recipe book); they are also joined by the word "AND" which indicates the use of plural.*
5. ~~Neither of the main dishes at tonight's dinner~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (contain, **contains [singular]**) any meat.  
*Rule Two: disregard the prepositional phrases; Rule Six: this sentence includes use of the word "neither," which indicates the use of singular.*
6. Even though the athlete was fit, **50 kilometres** \_\_\_\_\_ (**is [singular]**, are) a long distance to run.  
*Rule Seven: Kilometres is a unit of measure, which indicates the use of a singular verb.*
7. ~~The metal grab bar on the ceiling of the Skytrain~~ \_\_\_\_\_ (make, **makes [singular]**) it easier for people to ride the train without falling over.  
*Rule Two: this sentence contains two prepositional phrases ("on the ceiling" and "of the Skytrain" the actual subject of the sentence is "metal grab bar." Rule One: "metal grab bar" is singular, and therefore indicates a singular verb.*
8. In exchange for a reduced rent, Karla **and** James \_\_\_\_\_ (**clean [plural]**, cleans) the dentist's office beneath their second-floor apartment.  
*Rule Four: Karla and James form a plural subject, and therefore the use of a plural verb.*

## Subject-Verb Agreement Review

9. There \_\_\_\_\_ (is, **are [plural]**) now **hundreds** of classic books available online for free.

*Rule Three: the verb comes before the subject in this sentence, however the subject is plural "hundreds..." and therefore indicates the use of a plural verb.*

10. During class discussions, an **individual** who \_\_\_\_\_ (**is**, are) critical of text that other **classmates** \_\_\_\_\_ (**like**, likes) \_\_\_\_\_ (**has**, have) to be careful not to hurt anyone's feelings.

*Rule One:*

***Individual** is singular (verb = **singular [is]**).*

***Classmates** is plural (verb = plural [**like**]).*

*The person who has to be careful in this sentence is the **individual**; therefore, the subject that corresponds with **has** [singular] is the **individual** [singular].*