

SENTENCES subject / verb agreement

Subject / verb agreement rules are used to make sure that the components of your sentence match and sound 'right'.

Plural subject: use verb with no S

Singular subject: use verb with S

CORRECT

She types on her laptop
They type on their laptops

INCORRECT

Michael make mistakes
Children says the funniest things

FURTHER INFO:

When the subject of a sentence is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by and, use a plural verb.	She and her friends are at the fair.
When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by or or nor, use a singular verb.	The pen or the book is in the drawer.
When a compound subject contains both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun joined by or or nor, the verb should agree with the part of the subject that is nearer the verb.	The boy or his friends run every day. His friends or the boy runs every day.
Doesn't is a contraction of does not and should be used only with a singular subject. Don't is a contraction of do not and should be used only with a plural subject. The exception to this rule appears in the case of the first person and second person pronouns I and you. With these pronouns, the contraction don't should be used.	He doesn't like it. They don't like it.
Do not be misled by a phrase that comes between the subject and the verb. The verb agrees with the subject, not with a noun or pronoun in the phrase.	One of the boxes is open The people who listen to that music are few. The team captain , as well as his players, is anxious. The book , including all the chapters in the first section, is boring. The woman with all the dogs walks down my street.
The words each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one are singular and require a singular verb.	Each of these hot dogs is juicy. Everybody knows Mr. Jones. Either is correct.
Nouns such as civics, mathematics, dollars, measles, and news require singular verbs.	The news is on at six.
<i>Note: the word dollars is a special case. When talking about an amount of money, it requires a singular verb, but when referring to the dollars themselves, a plural verb is required.</i>	Five dollars is a lot of money. Dollars are often used instead of rubles in Russia.
Nouns such as scissors, tweezers, trousers, and shears require plural verbs. (There are two parts to these things.)	These scissors are dull. Those trousers are made of wool.
In sentences beginning with there is or there are, the subject follows the verb. Since there is not the subject, the verb agrees with what follows.	There are many questions . There is a question .
Collective nouns are words that imply more than one person but that are considered singular and take a singular verb, such as group, team, committee, class, and family.	The committee decides how to proceed. The family has a long history. My family has never been able to agree .
In some cases in American English, a sentence may call for the use of a plural verb when using a collective noun.	The crew are preparing to dock the ship.
Expressions such as with, together with, including, accompanied by, in addition to, or as well do not change the number of the subject. If the subject is singular, the verb is too.	The President , accompanied by his wife, is traveling to India. All of the books , including yours, are in that box.