

Name _____

Date _____

Subject / Verb Agreement

What do we mean by **subject / verb agreement**? Subject / verb agreement is making sure you always match a singular subject with a singular verb and a plural subject with a plural verb.

You should be able to tell the difference between a singular subject and a plural subject most of the time. Singular means one and plural means more than one. Most of the time (but not all of the time) a plural subject ends in "s".

For example:

One book, many books

One lion, three lions

Sometimes we just need to know that the word means more than one.

For example:

One Goose, many geese

Okay, that wasn't too hard, but how do you tell a singular verb from a plural verb?

Most verbs don't change whether they are talking about one thing or many.

For example, take the verb *run*:

I run, you run, they run.

Not all verbs are like that. But again, most verbs have a simple way to tell if they are singular or plural. Verbs that end in "s" are usually the singular form, and the same verb that doesn't end in "s" is the plural form.

For example:

She screams

The girls scream

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Subject / Verb Agreement (Cont'd)

What if there are two subjects in a sentence? You always use a plural verb, even if the subjects are singular.

For example:

My brother and I always scream when the movie gets to that part.

O.k., when do we use is and are? "Is" is a singular verb and "are" is a plural verb.

For example:

She is going to the store. We are going to the store.

Here are two other tricky rules about agreement:

1) Sometimes plural pronouns need a singular verb. The words everyone and everything are the most common examples.

Everyone is singular just like someone or no one

Everything is singular just like something or someone.

2) If you use the words each or every in a sentence, even with more than one subject, you use a singular verb!

For example:

Each shoe and each sock needs to be picked up from the floor.

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Subject / Verb Agreement Questions

Underline the sentences which have improper subject / verb agreement.

- 1) The cows is hungry.
- 2) I like swimming.
- 3) Pizza are good.
- 4) Bobby and Glen is good friends of mine.

Fill in the proper form (singular or plural) of a verb that makes sense in each sentence.

- 5) Ducks _____ fun to watch when you feed them.
- 6) My brother and I _____ grilled cheese sandwiches.
- 7) Everyone _____ I am the best at this game.
- 8) The library _____ at the end of the street.

Fill in the proper form (singular or plural) of a subject that makes sense in each sentence.

- 9) _____ are kind of weird looking.
- 10) _____ and _____ like the same girl.
- 11) Each _____ and _____ needs to be folded separately.
- 12) _____ is really hard.

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Subject / Verb Agreement Answers

Underline the sentences which have improper subject / verb agreement.

- 1) The cows is hungry.
- 2) I like swimming.
- 3) Pizza are good.
- 4) Bobby and Glen is good friends of mine.

Fill in the proper form (singular or plural) of a verb that makes sense in each sentence.

- 5) Ducks ___are___ fun to watch when you feed them.
- 6) My brother and I ___like, eat___ grilled cheese sandwiches.
- 7) Everyone _thinks, says, knows___ I am the best at this game.
- 8) The library _is___ at the end of the street.

Fill in the proper form (singular or plural) of a subject that makes sense in each sentence.

- 9) ___(plural noun)_____ are kind of weird looking.
- 10) _(singular noun)___ and _(singular noun_) like the same girl.
- 11) Each _(singular noun)___ and _(singular noun)_needs to be folded separately.
- 12) _(singular noun)_ is really hard.