

Let's Agree, Shall We?

A verb should agree with its subject. In other words:

If the subject is singular, use a singular verb, and if the subject is plural, use a plural verb:

Jason *sings* beautifully.

The lion cubs *were* waiting for their mother.

Sometimes, it can be a bit tricky to figure out whether the subject is singular or plural. Here are some tips:

When the subject is composed of two or more nouns or pronouns connected by *and*, use a plural verb:

Alex and Emma *run* fast.

Use a singular verb with sums of money or periods of time:

Ten dollars *is* a good price for that ticket.

Three hours *is* a long time to wait.

When two or more singular nouns or pronouns are connected by *or* or *nor*, use a singular verb:

Grandma or Grandpa *is* going to pick me up tonight.

Collective nouns are nouns that describe a group, such as *team*, *committee*, *class*, and *family*. When all the members of the group are doing the same thing, use a singular verb:

Our class *raises* the most money every year.

The words *each*, *each one*, *either*, *neither*, *everyone*, *everybody*, *anybody*, *anyone*, *nobody*, *somebody*, *someone*, and *no one* are singular and require a singular verb:

Everyone *is* looking forward to Saturday.

When the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb:

The majority of my friends *are* arriving tomorrow.

Directions: In each sentence below, underline the subject and circle the correct verb. We did the first one for you.

1. The president and his adviser **is/are** meeting in the Oval Office.
2. Ina **isn't/aren't** coming with us to the park because her grandparents are visiting.
3. My parents **has/have** already bought 10 raffle tickets.
4. What classes **do/does** Jess have after lunch?

5. A school of bright-colored fish **was/were** swimming past us while we were snorkeling.
6. One of Emma's little brothers **has/have** seen every Harry Potter movie 10 times.
7. A few of Sajit's cousins **was/were** at the reunion.
8. Everybody **hope/hopes** the Cougars will win on Saturday.
9. The freckles on Annie's face **seem/seems** to have multiplied.
10. My brother's swim coach **want/wants** him to practice before school every morning.
11. I'm not sure if Brett or Sam **is/are** going to play the lead role on Saturday.
12. Twenty minutes **is/are** about the standard amount of time to wait for a delivery.

Directions: In each sentence below, circle the subject that agrees with the verb. We did the first one for you.

13. My nose/nose and throat is itchy.
14. **One/Many** of Ellie's friends plays drums in the marching band.
15. The **kitten/kittens** like to play in the laundry basket.
16. **She/They** has \$20 to spend at the bookstore.
17. Jeremy's **family/brother and sister** is really nice.
18. When the bell rings, **the class/the students** leap up from their seats.
19. **Nobody/Two of my friends** likes scary movies.
20. **Rufus/Rufus and Frannie** meow at me every time I walk by.