

# TOEFL PREP for Spanish Speakers

S=P

## STEP TWO



### QUICK CHECK Grammar Problem Areas

#### STEP ONE

- MC (Main Clause)
- SC (Subordinate Clause)

#### STEP TWO

- S=V (Subject-Verb Agreement)
- >S=P (Subject-Pronoun Agreement)
- VTF (Verb Tense or Form)
- PFR (Pronoun Form or Reference)

#### STEP THREE

- VBL (Verbal)
- WF (Word Form)

Rules for Subject-Pronoun Agreement

## VERBS and PRONOUNS, Agreement, Tense, and Form

#### STEP FOUR

- WO (Word Order)
- PS (Parallel Structure)
- UR (Unnecessary Repetition)

#### STEP FIVE

- CU (Correct Usage)

## EXERCISE SWE-22

Directions: Using the abbreviations that identify each type of error, classify the following ten errors, then try to correct the errors. Only ten of the twelve types of errors are listed.

WO 1. Rarely we do cook at home because we prefer eating out.

MC 2. German Shepherds, which make lovable pets, they are frequently trained to assist the blind.

PFR 3. The hair stylist whom does her hair is quite expensive.

S=V 4. Not only the teachers but also the principal have decided to play in the annual basketball game.

PS 5. When visiting New York, I enjoy shopping in SoHo, attending Broadway plays, and to eat in China Town.

WF 6. *Titanic* was the expensivest movie ever produced.

VBL 7. Power surges aren't harmful to electrical appliances left unplugging.

S=P 8. Everyone leaving the concert must have their hand stamped in order to be readmitted.

UR 9. The brief, short report highlighted the most important events of the annual meeting of stockholders.


CU 10. Setting in the sun for long periods of time without any kind of protection can be harmful to the skin and could even cause cancer.

This program has been designed so that students can begin at any point, or skip around through the material as desired. However, if you've just finished studying the **S=V** (subject-verb agreement) point, the following **S=P** (subject-pronoun agreement) point will be easy. There are fewer rules, and the rules are the same as the previous **S=V** rules. Subordination is still important when analyzing **S=P** errors; separate your clauses to correctly identify which pronoun refers to which subject, then check the agreement.

Before we begin our study of **S=P** errors, let's take a look at the various forms of pronouns. The following chart classifies all of the pronouns in English by their form (only the demonstrative pronouns, *this*, *that*, *these*, and *those* are not included) Refer often to this chart until the pronouns become familiar. This will also be important for the following **PFR** (pronoun form or reference) point.

## QUICK CHECK

SUBJECT	OBJECT	POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVE	POSSESSIVE PRONOUN	REFLEXIVE
<b>I</b>	ME	MY	MINE	MYSELF
<b>YOU</b> (SINGULAR)	YOU	YOUR	YOURS	YOURSELF
<b>HE</b>	HIM	HIS	HIS	HIMSELF
<b>SHE</b>	HER	HER	HERS	HERSELF
<b>IT</b>	IT	ITS	----	ITSELF
<b>WE</b>	US	OUR	OURS	OURSELVES
<b>YOU</b> (PLURAL)	YOU	YOUR	YOURS	YOURSELVES
<b>THEY</b>	THEM	THEIR	THEIRS	THEMSELVES
<b>ONE</b>	ONE	ONE'S	----	ONESELF
<b>WHO</b>	WHOM	WHOSE	WHOSE	----

The concept of subject-pronoun agreement is the same as that of subject-verb agreement. As mentioned, the rules are the same, but fewer. However, **S=P** errors can still be somewhat more difficult than **S=V** errors for one important reason: when checking the subject-verb agreement, there is only one singular or plural verb form from which to choose. But, when checking the subject-pronoun agreement, there are several singular choices from which to choose. We must think not only in number, but also  gender, form, and reference. Let's begin with a few examples of **S=P** errors. Try to find the subject-pronoun agreement errors in the following five sentences.

1. Neither of the girls in my school has their own car.
2. The coach as well as the players is in their office.
3. Either Fernando or Eduardo should have brought their watch.
4. Each of the students has their credential.
5. All of the library books have its own identification number.

### RULES FOR SUBJECT-PRONOUN AGREEMENT

1. Words which end in “one”, “body”, or “thing”, even though plural in meaning, take singular verbs (see rule number ten under "Singular Verbs"). Singular pronouns are also used to refer to these words.

For example:

*Everybody* at the conference receives **his** certificate today.

*Everything* should be put in **its** proper place.



Remember, in Spanish you don't distinguish between masculine and feminine gender when choosing a possessive pronoun; in English you must. For example, the pronoun *su* could be translated to *his* or *her*, depending on the appropriate gender.

2. When two subjects are joined by *and* (unless preceded by *each* or *every*), a plural verb is required (see rule two under “Plural Verbs”). Plural pronouns are also used in this case.

For example:

*Both* Cristal *and* Edna are doing **their** homework.

Pedro *and* I are taking **our** cars.

Let’s test our understanding of these two rules before continuing with the last two.

### EXERCISE SWE-23

Directions: Identify the subjects and complete the sentences with an appropriate pronoun. Make sure to read the complete sentence and maintain logical reference.

1. Everyone who dines in this restaurant will have his parking ticket validated.
2. Both the cheerleaders and the football players will be issued \_\_\_\_\_ uniforms tomorrow.
3. Everyone is invited to bring \_\_\_\_\_ husband to the dinner.
4. Someone left \_\_\_\_\_ umbrella.
5. My cousin and I will spend \_\_\_\_\_ vacations in Ixtapa.
6. It is disturbing to the teacher that no one completed \_\_\_\_\_ final project on time.
7. Everyone should remain seated until \_\_\_\_\_ name is called.
8. Both snakes and iguanas shed \_\_\_\_\_ skin.
9. My sister and I are saving \_\_\_\_\_ money to buy a new computer.
10. Anyone who studies hard can improve \_\_\_\_\_ TOEFL score.

**S=P RULES CONTINUED**

3. *Either...or*, *neither...nor*, and *not only...but also* are correlative conjunctions that introduce two subjects. The verb (see rule eight under “Singular or Plural Verb”) and the pronoun agree with the closest (second) subject.

For example:

*Either* my mom *or* my **dad** left his keys on the table.

*Not only* the senators *but also* the **president** will give his speech tonight.

4. Collective nouns (such as *family*, *team*, *police*, *class*, *audience*, *faculty*, etc.) can be used in a plural or singular form. If the verb is singular, use a singular pronoun. If the verb is plural, use a plural pronoun (see rule two under “Singular or Plural Verb”).

For example:

The *committee* **are** in the process of making **their** decisions.

The *committee* **is** in the process of making **its** decision.

Let’s test our understanding of the final two rules by completing the following exercise.

## EXERCISE SWE-24

Directions: Identify the subjects and complete the sentences with an appropriate pronoun.

1. The crew is going to dock its ship tonight.
2. Our team is trying to tie \_\_\_\_\_ previous record.
3. Not only the captain but also the soldiers are in \_\_\_\_\_ camp.
4. The family has moved to \_\_\_\_\_ new apartment.
5. Either Janet or her sisters will take \_\_\_\_\_ turn next.

6. The committee is going to present \_\_\_\_\_ report tomorrow.
7. Neither the students nor the teachers have \_\_\_\_\_ class schedules.
8. The faculty are preparing \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations.
9. Neither the cats nor the dog is in \_\_\_\_\_ house.
10. Not only my brother but also my sister is finishing \_\_\_\_\_ degree.

Now let's combine all the rules for **S=V** and **S=P** and test our understanding with further practice. The following exercise is an excellent review of both subject-verb agreement and subject-pronoun agreement.

EXERCISE SWE-25

Directions: All of the following sentences are wrong because they have errors in subject-verb agreement and/or subject-pronoun agreement. Rewrite the sentences, correcting the errors.

1. Neither the reporters nor the photographer have received their assignment.

Neither the reporters nor the photographer **has** received **his** assignment.

2. Everyone have to present their identification in order to receive a discount.
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3. The English department, along with the other departments, are going to order their new computer equipment soon.
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4. The one million dollars were given to the lucky winner who won them in the raffle.

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5. Both Puerto Vallarta and Cozumel is popular in the winter because of its warm climate.

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6. The catalog listing U.S. universities are available at the library because many students request them.

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7. Anyone who abuses their pet should be criminally charged for their actions.

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8. Everyone need to take their final exam today.

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9. Many a man have tried to discover the fountain of youth.

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10. Contrary to speculation, books has actually increased in popularity in our computer age; many thought it would disappear.

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Before we continue our study of other verb and pronoun errors, let's end this section with a **MINI TOEFL** practice exercise.

**MINI TOEFL-8**

Directions: In questions 1-5, choose the one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. In questions 6-10, identify the underlined word(s) that should be changed to correct the sentence.

**Time: 6 minutes**

\_\_\_\_ 1. *The New York Times*, famous for \_\_\_\_ Sunday edition, features critiques of Broadway musicals.

- (A) their      (B) it's      (C) his      (D) its

\_\_\_\_ 2. Unlike any other U.S. president, President Clinton believed it to be in the best interest of \_\_\_\_ country to fight the tobacco companies.

- (A) their      (B) her      (C) his      (D) its

\_\_\_\_ 3. That chain of fast food restaurants will go out of business if it doesn't find a way to improve \_\_\_\_.

- (A) its hamburgers      (B) it's hamburgers  
(C) their hamburgers      (D) ours hamburgers

\_\_\_\_ 4. Not only the doctor but also the nurses are attending \_\_\_\_ patients in the emergency room.

- (A) his      (B) her      (C) them      (D) their

\_\_\_\_ 5. Everyone must bring \_\_\_\_ final project to class today.

- (A) its      (B) his      (C) my      (D) their

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Both the lawyer and his clients are required by law to present his case before the grand jury on \_\_\_\_\_  
A B C D  
Wednesday.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Although it is illegal, some people still throw his trash out of the car window.  
A B C D

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Everyone have to report to his job no later than 8:00 tomorrow morning.  
A B C D

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. The Mexican soccer team is preparing for their important World Cup game against the unde-  
A B C D  
feated Brazilian team.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Not only the panda but also the polar bears will be moved from its homes in the zoo to a warmer  
A B C D  
climate.