

Screening Test

Grammar

Subject-Verb Agreement

Sentence Construction:

- (a) Subject + Verb + Object
- (b) Subject + Helping Verb + Verb + Object

Singular subjects must take **Singular Verbs**.

Plural Subjects must take **Plural Verbs**.

Cont...

- **Types of the subject**

- (a) **Simple Subject**

Rashid is writing an essay.

- (b) **Compound Subject**

Rashid and Rizwan sit by the fire

- (c) **Noun Phrase**

The next person speaking in the conference is the MD of the organization.

Cont...

Linking Verbs

is	seems	be
am	becomes	been
are	feels	being
was	appears	
were		

Helping Verbs

is	has	does	can	could	must	be
are	have	do	will	would	may	been
am	had	did	shall	should	might	being
was						
were						

Cont...

Basic Rule:

Always identify the subject(the doer of an action) and its location.

Cont...

- A good student knows the value of time.
- People who *know* the value of time are always successful in life.

Sub-verb agreement Rules

- **RULE 1:**

When two subjects are joined by 'and', the verb is plural.

My brother and his friend **are** absent today.

RULE 2: *When two singular nouns joined by 'and' refer to the same person or thing, the verb is singular.*

The captain and coach of the team **has** been sacked.

Cont...

- **Rule 3:**

If a sentence begins with “here” or “there”, the verb agrees with the subject which follows it.

*Here is **the list** of the items.*

*There are **many things** on the list.*

Cont...

- **Rule 4:**

*If two subjects, one singular and one plural, are connected by **Either/OR** or **Neither/Nor** , the verb agrees with the nearest subject. (NSR)*

Neither the players nor the coach is joining.

*Either the father or the children **are** attending the ceremony.*

Cont...

- **Rule 5:**

If connectives/appositives like ***along with***, ***together with***, ***as well as***, ***accompanied by***, ***in addition to***, ***no less than*** etc are used to combine two subjects, the verb agrees with the subject mentioned first.

Amjad, accompanied by his wife, is travelling.

Teachers, along with staff, are busy in a meeting.

Cont..

- Rule 6:

*If a **singular subject** is followed by a **phrase** containing a **plural noun**, the verb is singular.*

*One of the members **is** missing.*

Cont...

- Rule 7:

*The indefinite pronouns such as **Several, Few, Both, Many, Others** are **always plural**.*

Both are asking to be given a chance to join the organization.

Cont...

- Rule 8:

*The indefinite pronouns such as **Some**, **Most**, **All**, **None** are singular or plural according to the meaning of the sentence.*

Some of the students were absent from the class.

Some of the ice is left

Cont...

- Rule 9:

*Indefinite pronouns such as **everyone, each one, someone, somebody, no one, nobody, anyone, anybody** etc are always singular.*

Each one of you is responsible for this incident.

Cont...

- Rule 10:

When *any of the following* indefinite pronoun **is** the subject, the verb is singular: ***Everybody, Each, No one, Another, Any body, Any one, No body, Every, Nothing, Every one, Everything, Either, Neither, Some body, Some one.***

Every man and woman in this hall is not allowed to leave.

Cont...

- Rule 11:

Expression of time, money, weight, and distance are singular even if the form is plural.

Two years is a long time to wait.

One million dollars was given back to him.

Cont...

- Rule 12:
- *When the percentage or a part of something is mentioned with plural meaning the plural verb is used.*

40 of every 100 children are malnourished.

Similarly when the amount of money refers to separate units, the verb is plural.

50 new silver coins **were** missing.

Cont...

- Rule 13:

When the word is preceded by A, it takes a plural verb. When it is preceded by The, it takes singular verb.

A number of students are waiting outside the hall.
The number of students outside the hall is not allowed to enter.

Cont...

- Rule 14:

When fractions are used, the verb agrees with the Object of the phrase.

One half of the cake tastes bad.

One third of the students are absent today.

Cont...

- Rule 15:

These nouns may be singular or plural in meaning:

***Politics, Statistics, Genetics, Athletics,
Gymnastics etc.***

When the noun refers to an organized activity, it is singular; when the noun refers to the activities of the individuals within a group, or to a varied activities, it is plural.

Cont...

- **Examples:**

Gymnastics is very popular among girls these days.

The Gymnastics shown in the field today **were** outstanding.

Cont...

- Rule 16:

Adjective used as noun is considered as plural.

The rich **are** to be taxed.

The poor **are** to be helped.

The efficient **are** the need of this country.

Cont...

- Rule 17:

Collective nouns may be singular or plural depending on whether the individual members are acting individually or collectively.

These nouns are: Team, company, group, committee, crowd, jury, police, flock etc

The police **is** after the culprit. (**collectively singular**)

The committee **are** of the different opinion about the culprit. (**individually plural**)

Cont...

- **Rule 18:**

*If a sentence begins with the expletive **it**, the verb is always singular even if the subject that follows the verb is plural.*

It is the parents who must take the responsibility of their children's action.

It is us who must take care of our environment.

Cont..

- Rule 19:

The only time the **Object of the Preposition** decides **plural or singular** verb forms is when noun and pronoun subjects like "some," "half," "none," "more," or "all" are ***followed by a prepositional phrase***. Then the object of the preposition determines the form of the verb.

All of the **chicken** **is finished**.

All of the **chickens** **are cooked**.

Cont...

- Rule 20:

Titles of books, movies, novels, and other similar works are treated as singular and take a singular verb.

“Great Expectations” is a must-read novel.