Every sentence has a **subject** (noun/pronoun: person, place, thing, or idea) and a **verb** (action or state of being).

Subjects are either **singular** (one) or **plural** (more than one).

For a sentence to be grammatically correct, the verb must agree with the subject.

For singular subject, regular verbs in the present tense will end in **–s** (*walks*) or **–es** (*dismisses*). Some exceptions to this rule are irregular verbs like *is* and *has*.

For plural subjects, regular verbs in the present tense will have no change (no added **–s** or **–es** ending). Some exceptions to this rule are irregular verbs like *are*.

**A Simple Singular Subject** calls for a singular verb.

The **boy** plays during recess.

**A Simple Plural Subject** calls for a plural verb.

The **girls** play after school.

**Compound Subjects** (more than one word in a subject) call for a plural verb.

The **boy** and **girl** play during recess.

**Singular Subjects That End With "S"** (mathematics, news, politics, series, etc.) call for singular verbs.

The **news** is not always good.

**Pronouns as Subjects** follow the same rules as singular and plural subjects.

He **plays** during recess.

They **play** after school.

**Collective Nouns** (jury, committee, club, audience, crowd, class, team, family, etc.) call for singular verbs.

The chess **team** **meets** during recess.

**Note:**
The subjects are underlined with a single line.
The verbs are underlined with double lines.
**Gerund Subjects**, verbs that end with –ing, call for a singular verb.

Playing chess makes students very intelligent.

**Indefinite Subjects** (anybody, anyone, anywhere, each, either, every, everybody, everyone, everything, etc.) call for singular verbs.

Everybody plays during recess.

**Subjects Followed by Prepositions** call for verbs that agree in number with the subject.

The books on the table seem interesting.

The smartest girl in the seventh grade skips recess to play chess.

**Correlative Subjects** (either…or, neither…nor, not only…but also) call for verbs that agree with the subject closest to it.

Either the boy or the girls play during recess.

Neither the girls nor the boy plays during recess.

**Subjects Followed by Relative Pronouns** (who, whom, whose, which, that, whoever, whomever, and whichever). The verb following the relative pronoun will agree with the subject right before it.

They are the students who study hard.

She is the student who studies the most.

**Subjects After Verbs** call for verbs that agree with the number of subjects.

There are too many children on the playground.

Does the boy often play chess alone?

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**Note:**
The subjects are underlined with a single line.
The verbs are underlined with double lines.