

- 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?

**Note:**

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The verbs are underlined with double lines.