



SNS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

(An Autonomous Institution)

COIMBATORE-35

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT



Subject-verb agreement is a crucial grammatical concept that ensures that the verb in a sentence agrees with the subject in terms of number (singular or plural). Here are some key rules to keep in mind:

1. Singular Subjects:

- A singular subject requires a singular verb.
 - Example: He runs every morning.

2. Plural Subjects:

- A plural subject requires a plural verb.
 - Example: They run every morning.

3. Singular and Plural Indefinite Pronouns:

- Some indefinite pronouns can be singular or plural, depending on the context. Examples of these pronouns include "anybody," "everyone," "someone," "each," "either," and "neither."
 - Example: Nobody wants to miss the party. (Singular)
 - Example: Some of the students have already finished. (Plural)

4. Collective Nouns:

- A collective noun (e.g., team, committee, family) is singular when referring to the group as a whole and plural when referring to the individual members.
 - Example: The team is playing well. (Singular)
 - Example: The team are having their own opinions. (Plural)

5. Compound Subjects:

- If two subjects are connected by "and," use a plural verb.
 - Example: Jack and Jill are coming to the party.

6. Compound Subjects with "or" or "nor":

- If the subjects are joined by "or" or "nor," use the verb that agrees with the subject closer to it.
 - Example: Neither the cat nor the dogs is happy.

7. Subject-Verb Agreement with Intervening Phrases:

- Be careful of phrases or clauses that come between the subject and the verb. The verb should agree with the subject, not the noun or pronoun in the intervening phrase.
 - Example: The box of chocolates is on the table.

8. Titles and Words as Subjects:

- Titles of books, movies, etc., and words as subjects usually take a singular verb.

- Example: "The Lord of the Rings" is a popular book.

9. Fractional Expressions:

- Use a singular verb after a fraction or a percentage.
 - Example: Half of the cake is missing.

EXERCISES

Exercise 1: **Choose the correct verb form.**

1. The group of students (is/are) excited about the field trip.
2. Neither the cat nor the dog (is/are) allowed on the couch.
3. Ten dollars (is/are) a reasonable price for that book.
4. Each of the books on the shelf (has/have) a unique story.
5. The new pair of shoes (look/looks) great with the outfit.

Answers

1. is
2. is
3. is
4. has
5. looks

Exercise 2: **Identify the correct form of the verb.**

1. Some of the cake (was/were) eaten at the party.
2. The committee (discuss/discusses) the budget every month.
3. One of the options (seem/seems) suitable for the project.
4. The children (enjoy/enjoys) playing in the park.
5. Neither the teacher nor the students (is/are) happy with the test results.

Answers

1. was
2. discusses
3. seems
4. enjoy
5. is

Exercise 3: **Fill in the blanks with the appropriate verb form.**

1. My family _____ (enjoy/enjoys) going on vacations together.
2. The news about the accident _____ (is/are) shocking.
3. Three cups of coffee _____ (is/are) too much for me.
4. The choir, along with the soloist, _____ (perform/performs) at the concert.
5. Either of the options _____ (seem/seems) reasonable.

Answers

1. enjoys
2. is

3. is
4. performs
5. seems

Exercise 4: Correct the subject-verb agreement errors.

1. The collection of stamps were valuable.
2. Each of the students were given a task to complete.
3. The team, as well as the coach, are traveling to the championship.
4. Some of the information provided on the website are incorrect.
5. Neither the cat nor the dogs were in the yard.

Answers

1. The collection of stamps was valuable.
2. Each of the students was given a task to complete.
3. The team, as well as the coach, is traveling to the championship.
4. Some of the information provided on the website is incorrect.
5. Neither the cat nor the dogs were in the yard.

Exercise 5: Choose the correct verb form.

1. The herd of cows (is/are) grazing in the field.
2. The list of ingredients (is/are) on the kitchen counter.
3. Ten minutes (is/are) not enough time to finish the assignment.
4. The jury (deliberate/deliberates) for hours before reaching a verdict.
5. Each of the students (has/have) their own opinions.

Answers

1. is
2. is
3. is
4. deliberated
5. has