

CLASS : 4

SUBJECT : ENGLISH GRAMMAR

BOOK : GRAMMATICS

CHAPTER : 18

AGREEMENT OF THE VERB WITH THE SUBJECT

A verb takes the same Number as its Subject.

Example:

The boy writes a letter. (subject is singular so the verb is also singular)

The boys write letters. (subject is plural so the verb is also plural)

Rules of application of verbs

1. Two or more singular subjects, connected by '*and*' take a plural verb.

Example : Ram and Shyam are friends.

2. Two or more singular subjects connected by '*and*' take a singular verb, if they refer to the same person or thing.

Example: The poet and actor has passed away.

3. Two or more singular subjects, connected by '*and*' take a singular verb, if they express one thought or idea.

Example : Bread and butter is my breakfast.

4. Two singular subjects, connected by '*and*' take a singular verb, if they are preceded by 'each' or 'every'.

Example: Every boy and every girl was present there.

5. Two or more singular subjects connected by ‘*either....or/ neither....nor*’ take a singular verb.

Example : Neither salt nor pepper was available there.

6. When two subjects, connected by ‘*either....or/ neither.... nor*’ belong to different persons, the verb agrees with the nearest subject.

Example : Either she or I am misunderstood.

Either you or she is misunderstood.

7. When a singular noun is connected to a second noun by *with, or, as well as*, the verb must be singular.

Example: Ram, with his friends, was watching TV.

Reena, as well as Seema, reads the newspaper.

8. A noun which is plural in form , but singular in meaning , takes a singular verb.

Example: The news is true.

9. A collective noun takes a singular verb when the collection is thought of as a whole. It takes a plural verb when the *individuals* of collection are thought of separately.

Example : The committee was united on that point.

The committee were divided in their decision.

EXERCISES

A. Underline the correct verb in the brackets in the following sentences.

1. Eleven players (make / makes) a cricket team.
2. Rekha and Radha (is / are) neighbours.
3. The writer and journalist (was / were) present in the conference.
4. Neither you nor I (are / am) at fault.
5. Every man and every woman (has / have) gone to the fair.
6. Neither air nor water (was / were) pure there.
7. Either Neha or Archana (is / are) guilty.
8. Neither you nor he (is / are) right.
9. The news (was / were) incorrect.
10. The jury (was / were) divided in their opinion.

B. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate forms of the verbs in brackets.

1. Either he or I am (be) going to Delhi next week.
2. The father, as well as the son, is (be) here.
3. The committee has (have) issued its report.
4. Every boy and every girl has (has) passed in examination.
5. Neither the doctor nor the nurse was (be) in the hospital.
6. The plane, with its crew, was (be) lost.
7. Physics is (be) my favourite subject.
8. Gulliver's Travels is (be) written by Swift.
9. The Principal and secretary is (be) coming for inspection.
10. The actor and the singer have (has) passed away.
11. Ramesh or Mohan is (be) absent today.
12. Riya and Priya have (have) come to meet me in the hospital.