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Subject-Verb Agreement



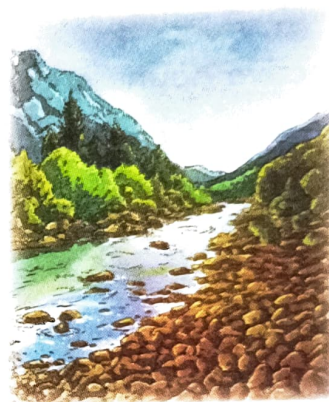
THINK



Problem Solving and
Decision Making

Work in pairs and identify which of these sentences are incorrect.

1. They is playing with the puppy. ✗
2. The cousins loves playing in the rain. ✗
3. I have never been to Delhi. ✓
4. Sama are a bright girl. ✗
5. The river flows from East to West. ✓
6. Who are that boy? ✗



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Subject-Verb Agreement

You know that in a sentence, the **verbs** (main and auxiliary) have to match the **subject** in number (singular or plural). This is called **subject-verb agreement**.

- singular → The **child is playing** in the park.
- plural → The **children are playing** in the park.

PRACTISE

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct verb.



1. Ritu is my classmate.
2. She is a clever girl.
3. They are siblings.
4. I am a student of class 5.
5. You are the tallest girl in the class.

6. I do not like sugar in my coffee.
7. Rohan sleeps (sleep) in the afternoon.
8. My mother makes (make) tea every morning.
9. My sisters write (write) a letter to my grandparents every month.
10. The children eat (eat) during the recess.

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Rules of Subject-Verb Agreement

Collective nouns

Collective nouns are treated as a single unit and thus, take a singular verb.

- A herd of cows grazes in this field.
- Our team is the winner of the quiz.

Nouns or pronouns joined with **and**

When two singular nouns or pronouns are joined with **and** in a sentence, they require plural verbs.

- Anthony **and** Sarah is friends. ✗
- Anthony **and** Sarah are friends. ✓

When two singular nouns joined with **and** in a sentence refer to the same person, they take singular verbs.

- The director **and** actor, Jyoti Singh, is the new member of the film review committee.
- The politician **and** poet, Jagat Gupta, was a part of the minister's rally.

When two singular nouns connected with **and** refer to the same idea or notion they take a singular noun.

- Bread **and** butter is his usual breakfast.
- Slow **and** steady wins the race.

Tips & Tricks

Notice the use of articles in a sentence where two singular nouns are joined with **and**.
the scholar and poet (refer to the same person)
the scholar and the poet (refer to two distinct people)

Subjects Joined with Along With or As Well As

Nouns/pronouns joined using **along with** or **as well as**

When two singular nouns are connected using **along with** or **as well as**, then the verb used in the sentence is singular.

PRACTISE

B. Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

1. The coach and the guide is/are helping me.
2. A pair of pigeons has/have made a nest outside the classroom.
3. The fleet of ships from Europe has/have arrived.
4. Each boy choose/chooses the role he wants to perform.
5. Either of the books is/are good for me.
6. The pair of scissors is/are rusty.
7. This pair of sunglasses was/were given to me by my aunt.
8. Those who has/have finished can leave quietly.
9. Neither Arun nor Tarun was/were chosen for the race.
10. Sarita and Sunaina is/are cousins.

C. Complete the given sentences using has or have.

1. The boy and his mother have gone to the market.
2. The group of girls has organised a program.
3. My parents have always supported me.
4. Ketan and Mini have brought a new car.
5. Both the classes have gone for a picnic.
6. My mentor has always taught me the best dance.
7. My jeans have frayed at ankles.

D. Rewrite the incorrect sentences. Put a tick (✓) beside the correct ones.

1. Shahid was absent when we had to go for the picnic. ☒
2. The naughty and mischievous child were hiding behind the cupboard. ☐

3. Your car and my cycle is parked in the garage. ☐
Your car and my cycle are parked in the garage. ☒

4. Your car, as well as my cycle, is red in colour.



5. Neither Ganesh nor Mahesh knows anything about this festival.



6. The man, with the baskets, were crossing the road.



The man, with the baskets was crossing the road.

7. The shears is in the first box.



The shears are in the first box.

8. The boy, along with his cousins, are guilty of breaking the glass.



The boy, along with his cousins is guilty of

9. These trousers are too long for me.

breaking the glass.



10. *Easy Programming* is a new book about children.



PLAY



Creative Thinking



Art Integration

I. Draw a picture of your family members. Write at least five sentences about each member. At least one sentence should use is/are/was/were and one should use has/have/had.

