

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

GRAMMAR AID

THE RULES: Don't ask why; It's just the way it is!

SINGULAR VERB	PLURAL VERB	RULE TO LIVE BY...
<p>Every man, woman, and child needs love.</p> <p>Each book is listed in the card catalog.</p>		<p>Every and Each are ALWAYS followed by singular nouns if they go immediately after and the verb is SINGULAR.</p>
<p>One of my friends is here.</p> <p>Each of my friends is here.</p> <p>Every one of my friends is here.</p>		<p>One of, each of, and every one of are followed by plural nouns. HOWEVER, the verb is SINGULAR.</p>
<p>That book on political parties is interesting.</p> <p>My dog, as well as my cats, likes cat food.</p>	<p>The ideas in that book are interesting.</p>	<p>A phrase or clause may separate the subject from the verb, but this does NOT change the basic subject verb agreement.</p>
<p>Growing flowers is her hobby.</p>		<p>A gerund used as the subject requires a singular verb.</p>
<p>Some of the book is good.</p> <p>Two-thirds of the money is mine.</p>	<p>Some of the books are good.</p> <p>Two-thirds of the pennies of mine.</p>	<p>In most expressions of quantity, the verb is determined by the noun or pronoun that follows of.</p>
<p>None of the boys is here.</p>	<p>None of the boys are here.</p> <p>None of the money is yours.</p>	<p>Considered singular in formal English, accepted as both. If the noun is non-count or singular, THE VERB MUST BE SINGULAR ONLY.</p>
<p>1. The number of students is 15.</p>	<p>2. A number of students were late.</p>	<p>1. Subject is number. 2. Subject is an expression of quantity – followed by a plural noun.</p>

<u>The United States</u> is big. <u>Sears</u> is a department store.		Singular Pronouns ending in –s .
<u>News</u> is interesting.		Non-count singular subject.
<u>Statistics</u> is difficult.		Singular fields of study : require singular verb
<u>Diabetes</u> is a disease.		Illnesses , despite ending in “s,” are singular.
Eight hours of sleep is enough. Ten dollars is too much. Five miles is too far.		Expressions of time, money, and distance are usually singular.
Two and two is four.		Arithmetic expressions require singular verbs.
<u>PEOPLE, POLICE, CATTLE</u>		Plural nouns that require plural verbs.
1. English is a hard language. 2. Chinese is his native language.	2. The English drink tea. 2. The Chinese are disciplined.	1. One subject 2. A group of people
	The poor, the elderly, the rich, the dead, the deaf, the disabled, etc. ARE	Adjectives preceded by THE are used as a plural noun to refer to a group of people .
<i>There are</i> twenty students in class. <i>There is</i> a fly in my soup.		THERE + BE is called an <i>expletive</i> . It has no meaning as a vocabulary word. It introduces the idea that something exists in a particular place. PATTERN: There + be + subject + expression of place
There is a <u>book</u> on the shelf. SINGULAR	There are some <u>books</u> on the shelf. PLURAL	The subject follows BE when THERE is used.