

# Subject-Verb Agreement

When you write a sentence you must make sure that the subject and the verb agree.

**Singular Noun:** A singular noun refers to **one person, place, or thing**.

**Plural Noun:** A plural noun refers to **one person, place, or thing**.

**Singular Verb:** A singular noun refers to **one person, place, or thing**. A singular verb always has an “s” at the end.

**Plural Verb:** A plural noun refers to **one person, place, or thing**. A plural verb does not always have an “s” at the end.

**If the subject is a singular noun, you need a singular verb.**

For example,

1. **She enjoys** music.

(“**She**” is the singular subject and “**enjoys**” is the singular verb.)

2. **She shares** her books with her friends.

(“**She**” is the singular subject and “**shares**” is the singular verb.)

3. The **zookeeper is feeding** the animals.

(“**Zookeeper**” is the singular subject and “**is**” is the singular helping verb for the main verb feeding.)

**If the subject is a plural noun, you need a plural verb.**

For example,

1. The **children are playing** on the swings.

(“**Children**” is the plural subject and “**are**” is the plural helping verb for the main verb playing.)

2. The **girls** always **walk** home together.

(“**Girls**” is the plural subject and “**walk**” is the plural verb.)

3. **Danny** and **Pansy** **like** chocolate ice cream.

(“**Danny**” and “**Pansy**” are the plural subjects and “**like**” is the plural verb.)

## Collective Nouns

Collective nouns may be used with either singular or plural verbs. If the group members are all together as one, use a singular verb. If the members of the group are acting as individuals, use a plural verb.

### Singular

That **family has** moved to Texas.

The **team is** coached by Mr. Clark.

### Plural

The **family were** giving their opinions.

The **team are sharing** new ideas.

Some plural nouns, such as people, cattle, police, don't end with -s. Always use a plural verb with these nouns. For example:

1. People **like** to be praised.
2. The cattle **are** in the field.
3. The police **have caught** the thief.