

Subject/Verb Agreement Rules

- 1) **Indefinite pronouns** (*anyone, everyone, someone, no one, anybody, somebody, and nobody*) always require singular verbs.

“Everyone is happy.”

- 2) **Neither and either** require singular verbs even though they seem to be referring to two separate things.

“Neither of the cars is working.”

“Either one looks good.”

- 3) **Sums of money or periods of time** require a singular verb.

“11, 000 dollars is a lot of money.”

“24 hours seems like an eternity someday.”

- 4) Typically, you should use a plural verb with two or more subjects when they are connected by the word ‘and’.

“The President and his wife are going to be there.”

- 5) **As well as and along with** do not function the same as ‘and’. The phrase introduced by **as well as or along with** modifies the earlier word, but does not compound the subjects.

“The President along with his daughters is in attendance.”

- 6) **There and here** are never considered to be subjects. In sentences beginning with **here or there**, the subject follows the verb.

“There are several cars in the lot.”

- 7) **Just because a word ends in –s** does not automatically make it plural.

“The news is depressing today.”

Mathematics is a challenging field.

- 8) **A collective noun** such as **team, staff, or family** is singular.

“Our family is very close.”

- 9) When ‘nor’ or ‘or’ is used, the subject closer to the verb determines which verb you should use.

*“Either my father or my **brothers** are going to sell the house.”*

*“Neither my brothers nor my **father** is going to sell the house.”*

Pronoun/Antecedent Agreement Rules

Rule #1: A pronoun and its antecedent must agree. They should both be singular or both be plural.

[singular] Dr. Ellen Wong finished her reports. / *[plural]* The doctors finished their reports.

Rule #2: Even though some indefinite pronouns have plural meanings, treat them as grammatically singular.

Incorrect Everyone in my English class does their homework.

Correct singular Everyone in my English class does his or her homework.

Correct plural All of the students in my English class do their homework.

Rule #3: When you use *a* or *any*, *every*, or *each*, use a singular noun (regardless of the noun that follows).

[singular] Each of the students is responsible for his or her own books.

[plural] The students are responsible for their own books.

Rule #4: Treat collective nouns as singular unless the meaning is clearly plural.

[singular] The committee granted its permission.

[plural] The committee put their signatures on the document.

Rule #5: Treat most compound antecedents connected by *and* as plural.

Incorrect Joan and Jim moved to the mountains, where he or she built a cabin.

Correct Joan and Jim moved to the mountains, where they built a cabin.

Rule #6: When a compound antecedent is connected by *or* or *nor* (or by *either...or* or *neither...nor*), make the pronoun agree with the nearer antecedent.

Correct: Neither the dog nor the cats could find their way through the maze.

Correct: Neither the cats nor the dog could find its way through the maze.

Rule #7: 'I' or 'Me'

Correct: Steve and I went to the game last night.

Incorrect: Steve and me went to the game last night.

Correct: That pizza is for Steve and me.

Incorrect: That pizza is for Steve and I.

Remove the other person from the sentence to see if you've picked the correct pronoun.

- *Steve and I went for pizza.>>>>I went for pizza*
 - *That pizza is for Steve and me.>>>>That pizza is for me.*
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Rule #8: Who's, Whose, Who, Whom

Who's = Who is

Whose= possessive

Who = the subject of a sentences

Whom = the object of a sentence

For more help with who vs whom go to EnglishwithLatini.com and search "whom"