**Subject/Verb Agreement**

* **Your Diagnosis.** Your **subject** and [**verb**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules/items/17035060) do not agree in number.
* **Your Treatment Plan**. If needed, **review and practice with our “**[**Identifying Subjects and Verbs**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/files/64475332?module_item_id=17150448)**”** worksheet from our [**Resources Page**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/modules). It may also be helpful to **review and practice with our** [**“Prepositional Phrases”**](https://pensacolastate.instructure.com/courses/1325752/files/64363642?module_item_id=17076483)worksheet, also on our Resources Page.
* **The Cure!** You’ll need to underline the **subject**, circle the **verb**, and CROSS OUT any **prepositional phrases**. After that, make sure that your **subject** and **verb** are both either **singular** or **plural**.

**Then, Remember the Basic Rule:**

**Singular subject =** verb ends in ***–s***. **Plural subject=** verb does **not** end in **–*s****.*

cartoon-eyes[1] **Be on the lookout for…**

**Pronoun subjects that can be confusing:**

* + PRONOUN SUBJECTS ending in ***-one, -body,*** and ***-thing*** are always **singular.**
  + INCORRECT: Everybody **park** in the garage.
    - *Are words like “everybody” plural?* **No- words like “everybody” mean “one body at a time.”**
  + REVISED: Everybody **parks** in the garage.

**Prepositional phrases that make it hard to identify a subject properly:**

* + PREPOSITIONAL PHRASES can seem like they are “part of” your subject, but they are not.
  + INCORRECT: The slaughter of animals for their pelts **are** giving everyone a scare.
    - *What is the subject in this sentence? Slaughter? Animals? Pelts?*

**Slaughter**, which is **singular**, is the subject here because **“of animals”** and **“for their pelts”** are **prepositional phrases**.

* + REVISED: The slaughter of animals for their pelts **is** giving everyone a scare.

**Writing the incorrect “Be Verb” is a serious grammatical mistake:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Present Tense Verb** | **Past Tense Verb** | **Object** |
| She | is | was | going. |
| I | am | was | going. |
| The candidates | are | were | going. |

* + **INCORRECT**: The siblings **was** arguing about chores.
  + **REVISED**: The siblings **were** arguing about chores.

**Try it out! Complete the practice exercises on the OTHER SIDE of this page.** 🡪

**SUBJECT – VERB AGREEMENT**

Now that you have read the various rules regarding subject-and-verb agreement, **let’s practice identifying the subjects in sentences and choosing the verbs to agree with those subjects**. In the following sentences, **underline the subject or subjects, and then circle the verb** that agrees with the subject or subjects. Remember: Go by the rule, not by what necessarily “sounds” right. **Also, you would be wise to mark through prepositional phrases, since neither subjects nor verbs can be in prepositional phrases.**

1. Everyone in the groups (works, work) on a different phase of the project.
2. Approximately 26.22 miles (is, are) the distance of a full marathon race.
3. All of the pizza (was, were) eaten in 10 minutes.
4. Twenty-five dollars (buy, buys) you a new, state-of-the-art flash drive.
5. Everyone (needs, need) to feel wanted.