

# SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

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Subject-Verb agreement refers to the way subject and verbs need to agree in number and person.

**Subject:** person, place, thing, or idea that is doing or being something.

**Verb:** what the subject is doing, its action, or its state of being.

Verbs in person refer to point of view: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> person. Verbs in number refer to singular or plural.

Regular verbs change very little. 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular regular verbs take an -s or -es.

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Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	I walk	We walk
2 <sup>nd</sup>	You walk	You walk
3 <sup>rd</sup>	She, He, It walks	They walk

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Irregular verbs have irregular forms. Three irregular verbs: to be, have/has, do/does. Like regular verbs, irregular verbs contain an -s in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular.

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Person	Singular	Plural
1 <sup>st</sup>	I am	We are
	I have	We have
	I do	We do
2 <sup>nd</sup>	You are	You are
	You have	You have
	You do	You do
3 <sup>rd</sup>	She, He, It is	They are
	She, He, It has	They have
	She, He, It does	They do

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Check for subject-verb agreement: pare the sentence down to its basics, the subject and the verb. Subjects and verbs are never in prepositional phrases.

**Compound subject:** Subject is plural, so the verb must also be plural.

**Either/or subject:** Use the subject closest to the verb to determine singular or plural.

**Collective nouns:** Take the singular or plural verb depending on whether the noun is referring to a singular unit or the members of a group.

**Indefinite Pronouns:** Words such as everyone, someone, no one take the singular verb although they refer to plural nouns.